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AT YOUR LEISURE: Julie Maddocks reports on KOS Media's Travel and Leisure Show at Dover

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Shoppers were startled and delighted as 40 dancers sprang into action in Ramsgate on Saturday during a flash mob-style dance. Volunteers dressed in aprons and wielding dusters strutted their stuff as part of the Ramsgate Arts Take Art Take Pride series of events. Bopping to Bee Gees classic Staying Alive and Dizzee Rascal's Bonkers, the dancers donned cleaning

outfits to highlight the importance of keeping the isles streets tidy. Some took on the tricky task of dancing with wheelie-bins, while others grooved in headscarves, rubber gloves and pinnies. People volunteered to take part and learned the moves on the morning. In true flash-mob style, the event had not been publicised and came as a complete surprise to those going about their business.

BY TOM BETTS

THREE American fighter-jets could be involved in a spectacular tribute to the crews of planes shot down over the isle during the war.

The US Air Force F-15s could make a dramatic flypast of Westgate-on-Sea to honour the men who perished when two Liberator bombers went down in 1944, if plans go ahead.

There will be a ceremony to commemorate those who lost their lives in Westgate and it will be attended by an American contingent as well as local dignitaries.

The aircraft from the 392nd USAAF bomb-

ing group, based in East Anglia, crashed off the beach at St Mildred's Bay, Westgate, on April 27, 1944.

Salute

Five of the crew were killed and four injured. That same night, another Liberator, from the 446th USAAF bombing group, stationed at Flixston, came down at Foreness Point, killing eight of the ten aboard.

A missing-man salute, when three planes fly horizontally before one suddenly shoots off at a vertical, could be the tribute of choice, if the flypast happens.

Councillor Simon Moores has had a long interest in the story. He pieced together the circumstances of the crashes on his Thanet Life

blog last year and helps organise the memorial, which took place for the first time last April.

He said: "The flypast could happen if the right permission is granted. The missing-man is quite a spectacular tribute and would be an averaging sight over Wortspare." amazing sight over Westgate.'

LETTINGS & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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INSIDE your lifestyle



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Conservative group leader quits top role

BY TOM BETTS

THE leader of the ruling Conservative group on Thanet council stepped down after 11 years at its helm.

Sandy Ezekiel announced his decision at a Tory group meeting last Wednesday as speculation about his position came to a head.

He has been succeeded as Conservative group leader by Bob Bayford, who will step into his shoes as 'leader-elect' until May, when his position as leader of the full council should be confirmed at its annual general meeting.

A statement issued by the Thanet Conservative group said: "At a meeting of the councillors of the Thanet Conservative group on Wednesday evening, Cllr Bob Bayford of the Kingsgate ward was elected as the new leader of the Group.

"Cllr Bayford, who is also a Kent

county councillor, will take the place of Cllr Sandy Ezekiel and will serve as 'leader-elect' until the Annual General Meeting of the council in May.'

Cllr Ezekiel became the leader of Thanet Conservatives in 1999, and leader of the council when they took power from Labour in spring 2003.

He said: "I told the Conservative group at our annual general meeting last year that I would not be taking the group through the local elections in May 2011, and therefore did not put my name forward for selection as leader.

"I'm delighted that Cllr Bayford will be leading the group next year and into the local elections in 2011."

Cllr Bayford said: "I'd like to thank Cllr Ezekiel for 11 years of devoted service to the people of Thanet.

"These are difficult times for local government and, while I plan to





ALL CHANGE: Sandy Ezekiel (top) steps down as Bob Bayford becomes leader-elect

continue the good work of my predecessor, I recognise that with the economic events of the last 12 months behind us and a general election ahead of us, a new perspective is needed.

"Thanet faces unique challenges, but it also offers equally unique opportunities through its coastline, tourism, green energy, its airport, harbours and much more.

"I have a number of ideas which I hope will contribute to making Thanet a better place for us all."

The deputy leader of the group, Roger Latchford, is, Yourthanet understands, staying on in his role.

Access road works make Roman finds

PIECES of the past have been unearthed by the first stages of con-struction of the East Kent Access Road project.

Archaeologists have found artefacts dating from when the Romans inhabited Thanet, as well from other

The finds from the recent excavations were shown to isle residents at two roadshows from the Trust for

Thanet Archaelogy over the weekend.
The first took place at Margate
library on Saturday, and the second
at Westwood Cross on Sunday.

Shoppers thronged around the stall outside Debenhams to look at what has been found so far.

Pieces of Roman ceramics from the period around 150AD, flints used to work on animal skins and animal bones were among the pieces on show.

Similar remains were found by teams near Monkton and Minster, before Thanet Earth was built around two years ago.

Fantastic

Archaeologist David Crawford-White, who is the archaeology out-reach officer for the road, said: "Much of what we have been finding are domestic items and we have found some really good examples.

"We have had a fantastic response to this, people are really interested in the area's history

"The Isle of Thanet has a unique archaeological heritage and what has been found locally so far has been tremendous, but there is so much more to find. People have been living here for 6,000 years."

The road is being built from near the old cooling towers in Richborough and will snake up to Manston.

It will join up to Cliffsend in the east and a second section will split off and finish at the Tothill Street roundabout near Minster in the west.

A stretch will run alongside the Kent International Airport runway, and the work there is currently the most visible.

It is hoped it will ease congestion and attract more businesses into the area, joining up the districts of Dover and Thanet further.

For more details on archaeology in Thanet, and to see the virtual museum, visit www.thanetarch.co.uk, and the Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society's site at www.iotas.org.uk.

The team will be back at Westwood Cross on Sunday, April 18, from 11am to 4pm, for another roadshow.

'He's left the isle in a sorry state'

THE man who opposed Sandy Ezekiel during his last year of lead-ing the Thanet Tories has launched a blistering attack on his political rival. Clive Hart, leader of the isle's

Labour group, says that Cllr Ezekiel's seven years in charge of the local authority have left Thanet in a

"sorry state".

He said: "He did his best, but as each year passed Cllr Ezekiel steadily lost effective control of the council.

"Despite his volatile behaviour being reported in national magazines, he clung desperately to power and Thanet suffered accordingly.

'Who knows what effect his 'style' of leadership has had on inward

Cllr Ezekiel retains his position of council leader until May, when leader-elect and new Tory group

chairman Bob Bayford is expected to replace him.

It has been no secret that there is no love lost between Cllr Ezekiel and Cllr Hart, but the latter is clearly angry over the Conservative man's

leadership of the council.
Cllr Hart said: "His legacy is depressing. Early this year he led the council into the unknown with his panic to push through the 'shared services' scheme for east Kent.

"Thanet council is now tied in to long, expensive and binding agreements with its neighbouring authorities with no clear financial savings.

"Yet [there will be] established and substantial financial penalties to find should the ventures fail.

"Days after that decision, the council was presented with a Financial Risk Assessment in which its financial officers described the 'shared services' project as probably the largest risk facing the council to date. "The likelihood of shared services

not being progressed was also deemed to be high-risk.

"Under Cllr Ezekiel's leadership, Margate's high street has been branded one of the dreariest in the country and Ramsgate royal harbour has been downgraded to the bottom six of 91 UK harbours."

The Tories' new leader is Bob Bayford, the elected ward member for Kingsgate.

Cllr Hart said: I congratulate Cllr Bayford on his election as Conservative leader, but seven years of Cllr Ezekiel's leadership has left our district in a very sorry state indeed and turning this situation around will be a major task.'

Harbour Arm comes to life as businesses open

BY TOM BETTS

TOURISTS will encouraged to saddle up when a new business opens its doors on Margate Harbour Arm on Good Friday.

Caitlin's Beach Cruisers will hire out push-bikes for families or individuals with a prefer-

ence for pedalling.

The venture is being run by Mitch Doyle, and the Mayor of Margate, Mick Tomlinson, will be on hand to open up the business at 1pm.

Caitlin's will also have a website at www. caitlinsbeachcruisers.co.uk

The harbour arm's Lighthouse Bar, at the very end of the structure, will also open up on the same day.

It has been newly refurbished and fitted with a wood-burning stove, a new bar and comfortable sofas to give it a more cosmopolitan feel.

A programme of live music will be announced

A new gallery will also be opening up.

The Old Town Gallery on Sea will occupy one of the spaces soon and be a showcase from the well-established Old Town Gallery in the Market Place, featuring the work of jewellerymaker and owner Stephen Roper.

The first show in the Margate Harbour Arm Gallery will also begin next month.

From April 30, curator Pat Wilson Smith, who also has a studio on the Harbour Arm, will be showing work by contemporary artists, and planning activities and exhibitions.

The first exhibition is the May Day exhibition



AN ARMFUL: New business ventures and cultural activities on the Harbour Arm mark the start of the tourist season

of contemporary art celebrating the beginning of summer. It opens at 8pm on Friday, April 30, immediately after Tracey Emin unveils her neon sculpture on The Droit House.

On Monday, May 31, the Margate Meltdown event will also hit the arm when the bikers from the Ace Café in London will have their stalls and bikes along the arm.

The BeBeached Café is also open and the Jofi

shop is also opening up again in April. Fiona Sherriff, of Margate Harbour Arm Ltd, said: "We have some great new things on the Harbour Arm and are looking forward to a fantastic summer. The website is now live, and we will be updating it regularly.

"You can visit it at www.margateharbourarm. co.uk and also follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/margateharbour.

Historic Easter fun comes to museum

A VICTORIAN Easter event will be held at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park in Birchington.

There will be fire-eaters and falconry displays, and a chance to hunt for eggs.

People dressed as Victorians will have a picnic on the lawn, and you can take

a pichic of the lawn, and you can take carriage rides, listen to music hall per-formances and watch a cricket match. A spokesman said: "We can guarantee you fun and frolics when you experience the Victorian Quex.

"This is a golden opportunity to pay one entry fee and visit the museum as many times as you wish over Easter."

Queen Victoria's arrival starts the daily festivities as Broadstairs Victorians join the Museum and Quex Park team to present the activities.

The Hannah Dining Suite restaurant

will also be open over Easter weekend with a Good Friday hog roast.



New scanner will save lives

A SCANNER worth £1 million is now in operation at the QEQM Hospital in Margate.

Trust chairman Nicholas Wells unveiled the revolutionary Siemens Definition Flash CT Scanner at the hospital this week.

The scanner is extremely fast, which means images of complex organs such as the heart can now be taken because it won't expose patients to high levels of radiation.

Doctors can use the CT scanner, which is new to the UK, for things they never could before, such as to see how far a stroke has progressed.

Patients suffering trauma injuries such as bleeding on the brain will be diagnosed quicker than ever before and computer technology means problems that may once have passed unnoticed can now be picked up - potentially saving hundreds of lives

Anne Greenhalgh, clinical direc tor, said the new scanner will accommodate up to 52 scans per day and produce high-quality images at the lowest achievable dose of radiation.

Clinical manager Ruth Moore added: "The incredible reduction in radiation dose makes these new scanners much healthier for patients by protecting the most radiation-sensitive organs of the body, such as the female breast.'

Appeal allows listedbuilding development

AN APPEAL by the owners of a listed building on Ramsgate seafront against a planning decision by Thanet council has been allowed.

Plans to repair and extend number one Granville Marina into flats was refused by the council's planning committee in June 2009.

The proposals were to convert the original building, which was in a state of severe disrepair and needed to be reinstated, and to add on a three-storey side extension.

The plans would create five twobedroom flats and a one-bedroom

Councillors refused the application on the grounds that the scale and design would have a detrimental impact on the building.

They also felt the proposed extension would not be in keeping with the surrounding conservation area.

A council spokeswoman said: "The developers took the matter to appeal and the Planning Inspector has agreed with the developers that the planned extension would not have a harmful impact on either the existing listed building or the surrounding area, because it would be set back from the main building.

"He was satisfied that the extension would be set back from the existing building and only a small part would be linked to the listed building and therefore no features of importance would be lost.

"It had previously been argued that the extension was also justified, as the money made from it could be used to pay to reinstate the building.

"This was an argument the inspector also agreed with."

John Kirby, cabinet member for regulatory services and Ramsgate marina, said: "Obviously the council is disappointed with this decision.

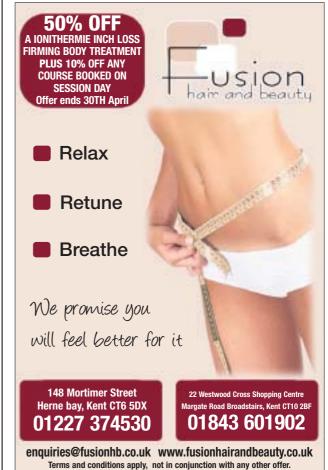
"Members of the planning committee took the decision to refuse this application as they didn't feel it would benefit either the listed build-

ing or the surrounding area.
"That's something the inspector did not agree with and of course we abide by that decision.

"We look forward to something now happening with this property as soon as possible, as I'm sure we can all agree that we want to see this lovely building restored properly and brought back into use."

The planning inspector was also asked to decide on a separate application for costs relating to the appeal.

He decided to allow this application, although the amount of costs has yet to be decided.



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BIG GAMBLE: Ramsgate's fine Victorian pavilion has been empty for two years since the casino was shut down

MP hopes cash will breathe life into old pavilion

FUNDING to the tune of £200,000 will come to Thanet to help support the regeneration of seaside towns and an isle MP says it could be good news for Ramsgate's Royal Pavilion.

The money is from the Department for Communities and Local Government and has been given to the isle as it is one of the 25most deprived local authorities.

South Thanet MP Stephen Ladyman said the money could be used to breathe new life into the Victorian Pavilion on Ramsgate seafront, which has been unused for about two years, since the casino was taken to Westwood Cross.

It could spur on a further grant from the Sea Change fund, which put in money for the Dreamland regeneration project.

He said: "The big news for my constituency is the extension of the Sea Change programme.

"I want Thanet council to look long and hard about working with Ramsgate Town Council and local partners at what could be done with the pavilion because a Sea Change grant might be exactly what is needed to start the ball rolling.
"We got £3million towards Dreamland and

we could get a substantial contribution to the pavilion for the right project.

"I've already spoken to tourism minister

BY TOM BETTS

Margaret Hodge and I know she would welcome a bid from us. It just needs Thanet council to move things forward.

The money has been earmarked to help tackle unemployment in Margate and Ramsgate and to spur regeneration as part of £5million given out nationwide.

The two towns are part of the launch of the Government's new national strategy for seaside towns published on Thursday last week.

The money will be received in the next few

Thanet council officials say they are "already considering how it plans to use that money to make the most difference"

Roger Latchford, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This is fantastic news for Thanet and fits in with the work already being done in regenerating our coastal towns."

The Sea Change programme will be extended beyond 2011, and £3million has been sealed for the revamp of Dreamland.

Dr Ladyman added: "With The Thanet Array wind farm nearing completion and the London Array to be built from Port Ramsgate we've got a good chance to capitalise on today's announcements about green technologies.

"There are big opportunities for Thanet if we show the determination to grasp them.

Pilgrims team cycle to forget them not

A TEAM of cyclists from the Pilgrims Hospices will ride through Margate on a journey through three towns to raise cash.

On Sunday, May 9, riders including doctors, nurses and volunteers, will take on the charity's 70-mile Tri Hospice route through each of the three Hospice towns of Canterbury, Margate and Ashford.

They will be joining Olympic gold-medallist Jamie Staff and the many brave cyclists of east Kent.

'Team Pilgrims' also plans to stop at each Hospice and scatter forget-me-nots as a gesture to remember loved ones.

Chief executive and Team Pilgrims

member Steve Auty said: "We understand that for many of our fellow cyclists the event will be an opportunity to remember someone special, whilst offering invaluable support to Pilgrims.

"We hope those unable to take part will make a donation for a forget-me-not that we will scatter on their behalf."

If you would like a forget-me-not scattered in memory of someone, please phone 01227 782062 or download a form online at www.pilgrimscyclechallenge.org.

Alternatively, you can sponsor Team Pilgrims at www.virginmoneygiving.com/ teampilgrims or by calling 01227 782062.

yourthanet **NEWS** IN BRIEF

Small business workshops

A FREE workshop for small business owners will take place in May.

Self-employed business owners in Thanet are being encouraged to attend to explore ways to increase their sales and profits.

Run by Business Link, the publicly funded business advice service, the free Boost your sales and profits workshops will be held at 11am and 4pm at St Augustine's, Canterbury Road, Westgate, on Tuesday, May 25.

The workshops are being run by Business Link's head of marketing Tony Buddin.

The workshops are free but exclusively for Kent based self-employed and owner managers with no more than two full-time employees

Apply for a workshop place at www.boost yoursalesandprofits.co.uk.

For more information about the support available, call Business Link on 0845 600

Boys take on charity walk

A SCHOOLBOY is planning to walk from Chatham to Birchington for charity.

Lewis Bedford, 11, from Wellsley House, Broadstairs, is walking for Build Africa with Seb Owen and the pair aim to raise £1,000.

The trip will leave from Chatham Historic Dockyard on Sunday, April 4, to Quex Park in Birchington, which is almost 50 miles.

Build Africa helps young people on the Continent have access to education by building schools, businesses and farms.

Visit www.justgiving.com/lewis-bedford to support the boys.

Emergency light stolen

A PARAMEDIC got a shock when the blue emergency light was stolen from his car.

He parked the unmarked vehicle outside the ambulance station in Haine Road, Broadstairs, at 9pm on Sunday, February 28, but the light was gone by 11pm.

David Dixon, a security-management specialist for South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust, said: "These actions are irresponsible and endangered the lives of patients."

Anyone with information should call police on 01843 222130, quoting reference EY/3158/10, or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.



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Radio station ready to hit the airwaves

THE isle's new radio station will go live at midday on Easter Monday.

On Monday, April 5, Academy FM will be hitting the radio waves on the

107.8FM frequency.
The community station will launch at noon and broadcast for 24 hours a day from the studios at the Marlowe

Academy in Ramsgate.
Peter Willson, Academy FM station
manager, said: "I am looking forward to returning to the breakfast slot in Thanet and to hearing from friends both old and new.

"As a truly local radio station broadcasting from the heart of Thanet to the whole of Thanet, 107.8 Academy FM will aim to be different and distinctive, combining humour, information, entertainment, stimulating conversation and great music. I can't wait."

Accessible

David Atkey, the project director, said: "We will aim to provide an entertaining mix of music and discussion, broadcasting a range of popular and accessible programmes, designed specifically to support and embrace all that is local in Thanet.

"There will be significant student involvement, especially from 6pm to 11pm within the evening shows."

Marlowe Academy principal Ian Johnson said: "Academy FM will offer an opportunity for our students to gain an insight into how to prepare and present radio programmes, operate equipment and generally how to run a business. This promises to be a great learning resource.

The station is set up as an independent non-profit-making company and a fiveyear licence has been awarded by communications industry watchdog Ofcom.

Raise your glasses to 3D football down the local

BY TOM BETTS

THE third dimension in sport is coming to the isle.

Pubs in the Thorley Taverns chain are going

to be showing Sky's new 3D system in glorious technicolour from Saturday.

The first game due to kick off in 3D is the big match between table-toppers Manchester United and Chelsea, a fixture that could determine the destination of the Premier League title.

Pubs in Ramsgate showing the game in 3D are The De Ville, The Queens Head, the St Lawrence Tavern, the Port and Anchor and

In Kingsgate, The Fayreness Hotel will have it on, while in Broadstairs The Lanthorne and Cramptons will be screening it in 3D.

Margate pubs offering the experience will be The Wig and Pen and Sheldons.

The Sky Sports show begins at noon, with the game kicking off at 12.45pm.

Punters will have to watch the screens using 3D glasses to get the full effect. Some 200 pairs of glasses will be delivered to each pub to ensure there are enough to go round.

Craig Knight, of Thorley Taverns, said: "The screens were delivered last week and I've been told they are unbelievable by people who have watched them. It will be showing on our 47-inch screens.

"We are one of the first pub companies in Kent who will be doing this, as far as I under-



BEER GOGGLES: Pub-goers will be able to watch Premier League football in 3D at Thorley Taverns venues around the isle

stand it. There is a three-month roll-out period. "We are starting off with a great game, so

we're sure there will be a big uptake for it. It will be quite interesting to see how it goes and what people think about it."

Chelsea fan Mark Scott, 29, of Broadstairs, said: "I can't wait for this. Not only is it going to

be a massive game against United, but I'll be able to see it in 3D. I loved Avatar at the cinema when I saw it and if the visuals are half as good as that then it will be great. I hope it works as well for sport as it does for movies."

The new system is tipped to be the next big thing in home entertainment and will soon be in people's living rooms up and down the land.

Five more live games are planned to be broadcast in 3D by Sky before the end of the

Sky is planning to show documentaries and arts programmes in 3D later this year, but for now it will be pubs and clubs that are providing its 3D experience first.



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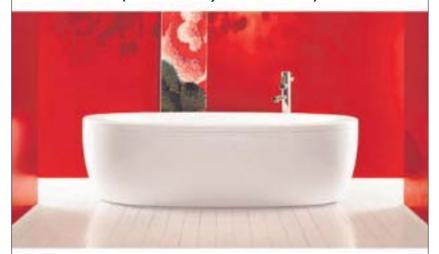


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QUESTION & ANSWER

PASQUALE



You're somewhat of a panto pro – how long have you been involved in pantomime?

I've done 28 years of panto, so I've done quite a lot of this type of work. I've never done this show, but I've done musicals and plays - I did Mel Brooks's The Producers the year before last, so I've done a fair few bits and

How many times have you performed at Chatham's Central Theatre?

Loads of times, because I live here. I live in Rochester, so I know the area well. It's one of the reasons for doing this for me. I can get home every night. Normally at this time of the year we're out on the road. This year, for a month, I can get home every night, which makes a change for me.

What are you looking forward to in this role?

Everyone knows the story of The Wizard Of Oz and the kids know the characters. You haven't got to build the character up. When the producer asked me to do it, he said you could do whatever you want. I thought I'd do the scarecrow as I could wear my own clothes.

How does being live on stage compare with TV work?

When you're doing live stuff, you've got the A experience of the live audience to react to you straight away. You know what their feedback is straight away. What you see is what you get [on stage] – you can't go back and say 'Oh sorry, can we do that again, I mucked it up.'

How significant was I'm A Celebrity...?

It was three weeks of my life that I really It was three weeks of my fire that I can, enjoyed, but everyone asks if it was life-changing. No, it was like going on a rubbish holiday with 15 people you'll never want to see again, then coming back like Elvis for three weeks. I'm not knocking it - if they asked me to do it again, I'd do it at the drop of a hat. I loved it. You came back a stone and a half lighter and constipated.

What are you looking forward to in the live show? What are you expecting from the audience?

All these types of shows you can rehearse for weeks on end, but there is always something missing - the audience. That's why our rehearsal schedule is quite tight.

We only have about eight days of rehearsals. If you go over and over it, you're not sure if it is funny any more.

Once the audience get in front of you, they're the ones who tell you if it is any good. Especially the kids – they are brutally honest. Adults will sit through two-and-a-half hours of cack, but kids, if they are bored, will get up, go to the toilet, text their mates or whatever. It's a different type of show working for kids.

Is it important to introduce them to the theatre?

Yes. At the moment, all the kids know is A what is behind a video screen. What's on the Playstation or X-box, what's on the computer or email, or on the telly with 300 channels. So when they get into a theatre, they're like 'I didn't know it was like this'. I think it is important kids are introduced to live theatre.

What type of shows do you like to watch?

Over the past couple of years with my son, who's 21 and an actor, we've said we have to see all these shows that have been running for 22-23 years. They've been running because they have something special about the show. So we've been to see Les Mis, The Phantom Of The Opera and others.

What is the best show you've been to see?

The best one we've seen is The Woman In Black. It's been running for 24 years now. It's a horror story and a ghost story. There are two people and they play about 12 characters each and it blew me away.

There's no set and it's all done with lighting and a bit of net curtain. It's the experience of live theatre and of two people holding an audience for two-and-a-half hours. That is what live theatre is all about - experiencing something, not just watching it on a dead screen.

The comedian talks to **Mathew Beech** at the launch of the Central Theatre's Easter pantomime, The Wizard Of Oz, about his love of live theatre, why he loves working in Kent and winning I'm a Celebrity...





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Dirty types could be named and shamed

PEOPLE caught flytipping, littering and causing noise nuisance could be named and shamed this summer.

A new campaign is being launched as part of the Government's Justice Seen Justice Done initiative. It aims to address concerns about crime and justice and will also apply to dog-owners who do not clean up after their pets.

National research shows 42 per cent of people say that knowing action will be taken to punish offenders would encour-

age them to report crimes.

A similar number said they wanted to hear about the punishments handed out for those crimes. The campaign warns offenders that they could be named and shamed in future and focuses on the crimes that most affect people's day-today lives.

Confidence

Anyone who fails to pay a fixed-penalty notice for dog-fouling or littering could be among those named and shamed.

Tiffany Hall, Thanet neighbourhood crime and justice coordinator, said: "This is about improving people's confidence in

the justice system.
"We know from research that all too often people hear about the crimes but don't hear about the punishments.

"We want to change that and reassure people we are taking action on the crimes that matter most to them.

"We also want people to feel confident to stand up and report crime, environmental issues or antisocial behaviour and to know that something will be done about them.

In 2009, community wardens issued 357 fines of £80 each for offences such as littering and dog-fouling.

Fighting fit and ready to get isle into shape

BY TOM BETTS

A FRESH chapter in health and fitness is about to open at the newlook Hartsdown leisure centre.

This Easter, feet will once again be pounding on the treadmills and iron will be pumped when a host of hi-tech facilities is used for the first time

The finishing touches are being added to the centre before the public reopening at a free family open weekend. The first chance for people to look inside will be on Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11, in the Easter holidays

The opening will conclude the £1.6 million redevelopment led by Thanet Leisureforce.

To help get the isle's residents in shape, a modern gym will offer the latest equipment.

Cardiovascular and resistance equipment such as exercise bikes and cross-trainers are just some of the 65 new stations installed, while two dance and aerobics studios will also be opened up so that group classes and activities can be taken.

There is also a large children's soft-play area and a café. The sports-hall floor has been finished to Olympic standard and there are new

changing-room areas, foyer and entrance hall.

A Thanet Leisureforce spokesman said: 'Customers will have the opportunity to try the new facilities and see the difference

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that this development has made to the centre.

"It's exciting to see the project being completed and the new centre will be a positive addition to Thanet. We hope as many people as possible come along and see it for themselves. Everyone is welcome.

There is a range of membership options to suit everyone, from fitness freaks to families. The spokesman added: "The indoor soft-play

will cater for children who need to let off steam in controlled and safe environments.

"Parents can relax in the café in the knowledge that younger family members are enjoy-

ing the play area.
"Birthday-party groups will be catered for and private exclusive use is also available.

For details of pricing, activities, fitness and programmes, visit www.leisureforce.co.uk.



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BREAK TIME

James bowling over older competition

PROMISING tenpin bowler James McMinn has raised his game to compete against older players.

The 13-year-old from Birchington represents Kent and in a recent tournament in Nottingham came fourth in both under-16 and under-14 categories.

The Chatham House grammar school student has been playing the sport for about six years and is a member of the successful Cliftonville Youth Bowling Club which meets at Bugsy's Bowling

He said: "It is a good test to bowl against older players and I am pleased to have done pretty well so far.

"I have made a lot of friends through bowling at the club and at county level.

School goes greener for Speaker's award

STUDENTS at St Ethelbert's Catholic primary school have entered their Greener School project into the Speaker's School Council Awards.

The awards are run by Parliament and MP John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons.

The school has been promoting environmentally-friendly lifestyles with posters, newsletters and recycling bins for paper, batteries, mobile phones, foil and ink cartridges

School bursar Shirley Wheatley said: "It is a good project as it teaches the children about conservation and recycling and saves the school money?

Construction firm helping pupils to build up careers

BY TOM BETTS

CHILDREN on the isle will get a valuable insight into the construction industry through programmes set up by Denne.

The Sittingbourne-based company is providing work-experience placements and curriculum material for schools through its newlycreated skills centre at its site at The Charles Dickens School at Broadstairs.

Denne has won the contracts for redevelopment work at both Charles Dickens and King Ethelbert School in Birchington, awarded under the Kent Building Schools For The Future programme.

As part of these projects, Denne has committed to engaging with schools to provide education opportunities for students, and the company has taken on a project coordinator to manage the programmes.

Already two young apprentices in construction have been offered one-day-a-week work experience with the company as part of their

Dominic Chapman, 14, who attends St George's School, Broadstairs, has started working with Denne's design, surveying and site teams at Charles Dickens, while Jonathan Willman, from Chatham South School, will be taking up a similar work-experience position in the future.

Tommy Jones, 15 was offered work experience with drylining specialist Barclays Plastering at Charles Dickens. Emily Galbraith, 17, from Thanet College,



PRACTICAL SKILLS: Year 6 pupils at Upton junior school fathom out concrete ratios to illustrate a maths problem

will be doing work experience as a secretary in

Denne is also keen to build links with primary-school children.

Nicholas Fowler, Denne's business improvement manager, said: "In May we will be working with trainee teachers from Christchurch University to develop school curriculum material as part of their work-experience placement. This is expected to cover numeracy and literacy skills for construction students.

"We are planning to run a maths project with Upton junior school, commencing at the end of February, whereby we will use construction practices to illustrate maths problems.

"To deliver the proposed range of activities we are working closely with the schools and our key partners, including our trade contractors and specialist organisations such as the Kent Education Business Partnership and Thanet Skills Studio."

The firm provided 20 apprenticeship placements on the Building Schools For The Future

These apprenticeships have been taken up by local people and have been provided in conjunction with isle-based specialist trade contractors such as Isle of Thanet Scaffolding and Eyles Brickwork, BP Williams, Fire Technology and C Watkins.

Two graduates taken on for summer placements have also been offered jobs. All of the training programmes are co-ordinated from the skills centre at Charles Dickens

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Social workers under pressure 'but managing'

BY STEVE KNIGHT

SOCIAL workers are "just about coping" with the pressures of preventing a Baby P-type tragedy occurring in Kent.

That is the verdict of County Hall's chief executive Peter Gilroy, who has made 19 recommendations on how to improve children's social services after a 16-month review.

Among them is the need for regular updates from senior staff, easier computer programmes to cut red tape, and the introduction of new trainee and bursary schemes.

The review was commissioned by Kent County Council in December, 2008, in response to the Baby P scandal that resulted in social workers throughout the UK finding themselves under intense scrutiny.

Its publication comes just days after Rosalind Turner, the head of child protection services, issued a public apology when it emerged a social worker failed to act after being warned about a man who went on to kill his baby daughter.

Consequences

Christopher Sellman, 24, from Tunbridge Wells, was found guilty of the November, 2008, manslaughter of his 25-day-old daughter, Tiffany, when he appeared at Maidstone Crown Court earlier this month.

In the review, Mr Gilroy wrote: "As we know from recent events, even when a single human error is made it can have tragic consequences.

"It is at times like these we need to be most supportive, as well as publicly standing up to be held to account where systemic failure or professional incompetence or negligence are the causes. We - all of us - need to bear in mind that social workers are dealing with complex, dysfunctional and at times dangerous individuals and families. It is not a job for the faint-hearted."

Seventeen-month-old Baby P - who has since been named as Peter Connolly - died after receiving sustained abuse at the hands of his mother, her boyfriend and their lodger in Haringey, north London, in August, 2007.

According to the NSPCC, an average of 67 children in England and Wales die at the



VICTIM: Peter Connolly – Baby P – died in 2007

hands of another person every year, with about 38,000 youngsters on child protection plans at any one time.

Mr Gilroy's review reports that the rate of violent child deaths in Kent between 1997 and 2009 is six per million of the population, compared with 17 per million nationally.

He wrote: "Complacency is the enemy of

the maintenance of high practice standards. "Constant vigilance and the pursuit of improvement are essential – reliance on good practice standards, policies and procedures can only give solid assurance if compliance with them is diligently monitored."

Key national reports on safeguarding vulnerable children have now been published by the Government, including its response to the Lord Laming inquiry and the first annual report to Parliament by the chief adviser on the safety of children, Sir Roger Singleton.

Mr Gilroy said these reports came too late for them to be referred to in his own review, and has therefore advised the main messages from them be analysed along with his recommendations for improvement

He wrote: "I am pleased to commend my report and its recommendations to the county council for its consideration. It portrays a service that it just about coping with some difficult pressures, but with its morale intact.

"My recommendations about how arrangements might be improved, as befitting my professional background as a social worker, are offered as those offered by a critical

The review went before KCC's cabinet on Monday and will be considered by full council tomorrow (Thursday).

Rail summit hears of timetable concerns

COUNTY Hall's transport chief has admitted he is "concerned" about the effects of Southeastern's new timetable on commuters.

The train operator promised more choice and less overcrowding when it launched its new schedule in December, but passengers claim the changes have actually led to more delays, fewer London-bound services and busier carriages

Now Kent County Council's cabinet member for transport, Cllr Nick Chard, has revealed he is monitoring what the firm does to alleviate the problems. The new timetable was one of the matters discussed at last Thursday's first rail summit, which brought together representatives from Southeastern,

Network Rail and passenger groups. Cllr Chard said: "We are concerned because residents are concerned. That's one of the reasons we organised the summit, because it was an opportunity for rail users to have their say directly to Southeastern and for them to respond in a public forum.

"When the timetable was being revised we did make a point of supporting the retention of the Cannon Street service on the Maidstone line, but we will form a view on the overall picture once we have listened to what everyone has to say. This summit is about improving communication."

The new timetable was launched to coincide with the start of High Speed 1, which for an extra £8 per journey provides London commuters with quicker journey times.

But commuters say the 140mph trains are underused because they only reached the higher speeds at Ebbsfleet and their only London destination was St Pancras.

Skilled volunteers in short supply

PROFESSIONALS are being urged to help tackle the shortage of skilled volunteers.

New findings by the Kent Volunteers part-

nership reveal there is a desperate need for help from people working in the finance and accountancy, marketing and communications, and IT and technology industries.

Research also showed the voluntary sector is crying out for people skilled in sport, business administration and legal services.

To encourage those with specialist knowl-

edge to sign up, a campaign has been launched by Kent County Council asking people to volunteer their skills and make a difference.

Carole Kincaid, county co-ordinator for Kent Volunteers, said it can often provide a way into future employment, as well as giving people the chance to try something new.

"It doesn't have to involve giving up a lot of time," she said. "Even small amounts can make such a difference. More importantly, it can be a lot of fun and a way to be part of something different."

There have been concerns that shortages of volunteers could lead to cuts in services, which is why KCC believes it is important that skilled people get involved.

Peter Turner, a qualified accountant with more than 30 years' experience, has been an honorary treasurer for Voluntary Action Maidstone since 2007. He urged other profes-

"I find it really satisfying to know I'm helping just by using my everyday skills," he said.

"I hope other professionals will."

I hope other professionals will give it a try and discover what it can offer them.

Other skills areas being sought are creative, education and teaching, health and safety, and social and health care.

To find out how to start volunteering or for information on groups needing help, go to www.kent.gov.uk/volunteers.



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Dammed if they do, dammed if they don't

I can't believe you are running these kids down (last week's front-page story). Having seen them around my flat I think it shows great initiative on their part.

There's absolutely nothing for the youth to do in Thanet, especially when they have no cash, and I for one would rather see them getting fit and enjoying the town than graffin' or vandalising.

Cut them a break! You demonise the youth no matter what they do, it seems, and then wonder why they have no respect for authority.

Laura, Margate web comment left on yourthanet.co.uk

Free-runners show a real spirit for living

People complain that kids sit indoors playing on computers

People complain if the kids go outside and participate in 'free-running' or parkour.

They're showing initiative and getting fit. I agree they need to be safe, but good for them for making their own entertainment.

Dave, Westgate-on-Sea web comment left on yourthanet.co.uk

What will police say if accident happens?

No comments from the police, then? It will probably continue until one of them gets hit by a car and then it will be the poor traumatised driver who will be breath-tested.

Rob, Margate web comment left on yourthanet.co.uk

Just looking out for parkour protagonists

No one's demonising these kids or telling them to stop - they're suggesting balancing on a railing next to a busy road probably isn't the best idea. There are plenty of places they can go - I've even seen them up near Margate station on the standing-stone things up there.

L. Margate web comment left on yourthanet.co.uk

TALK TIME

CLIVE LAWRENCE

The press officer for the Federation of Small Businesses talks about being persuasive and clotted cream



Tell us a little bit about yourself

After being a BBC journalist for more than 20 years, I'm now the press officer for the Federation of Small Businesses and also run my own PR business in Gillingham, where we've lived since I came to work at BBC Radio Kent. I'm a member of Rotary and get huge satisfaction from taking part in projects to help people in my community and overseas. As a Devonian, I also love cider and clotted cream!

Tell us a bit about the FSB

It's Britain's leading business organisation. representing more than 200,000 self-employed and small business owners and is run by the members for the members.

What's the best bit about your job?

As a professional communicator there's nothing more satisfying than to convince others that what you're saying is right. However, just telling the truth as you see it is not good enough; you have to persuade others through real examples.

Isle more war zone

than seaside resort

criminals would be given community

After the promise that all petty

service, how come our streets are

still littered with filth and rubbish?

I have only once seen a party of

young offenders doing something

Thanet council has virtually

people and the isle is now looking

Look at all the potholes, refuse and general filth. Does it remind

What is happening to Thanet?

Has no one any respect for their surroundings? Why don't people

keep their own space clean and tidy? This includes the pavement

Just walking to the local post

office – about 150 yards – I picked up 10 broken glass bottles.

This is so dangerous and the

put the bottles somewhere safe

youths that enjoy drinking alcohol

at night in the street should at least

where they will not cut a dog's paws

They have no thought for others.

They should be heavily fined - they

have been allowed to get away with

this for too long. If I had my way,

they would be given hard labour.

enforcements of any laws in this

country any more. What can we do

Carole Russell, Ramsoate

There just seems to be no

– any suggestions?

or injure a child or elderly person.

outside your own house or flat.

anyone of the 40s? It does me.

more like a war zone than a seaside

stopped doing anything for the

positive.

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us what you think

Burnt hotel hardly looks conservative

Regarding last week's story about the proposed Dalby Square conservation area, does this also cover the burnt-out shell of the Warren Court Hotel?

Rob, Margate web comment left on yourthanet.co.uk

Emergency action on old hospital signage

While KCC Highways is looking at signs in Ramsgate, would it not be a good idea to remove signage indicating that Ramsgate Hospital is still open for business (except accident and emergency).

To my knowledge, it has been closed for at least six years. Misleading, especially to visitors.

Laurence Davies, Ramsgate web comment left on yourthanet.co.uk

Why don't we all try a nice little earner?

I was incensed to read that a Ramsgate man who fiddled £35,000 of public money has had a 12-month suspended sentence and only had to repay £5,000.

With sentences like this, no wonder everyone from politicians down is on the fiddle. If all you get is a smack on the wrist, then no wonder people are at it.

What was the point of a curfew,

as well? To stop him getting a proper job in the evenings?

Share a cuppa and combat loneliness

We are writing to ask your readers to support a campaign which helps to tackle the problems of isolation and loneliness among millions of pensioners in Britain.

Bupa Care Homes 'Communi-tea Week' is a national initiative and supports older people in the UK who may be struggling on their own by providing a friendly face and reaching out to them over a cup of tea. More than 3.7 million pensioners in Britain currently live alone and by 2033 the number of people aged 85 and above is projected to be more than double from 1.6 million to 3.2 million.

So throughout the week from Monday, April 19, older people across the country are being invited to join in hundreds of tea-related events, from tea dances to afternoon tea parties, that are taking place in Bupa Care Homes.

We are also encouraging communities to host their own tea parties and invite someone who lives alone, whether it is a neighbour or a friend. We hope as many people as possible will support Communi-tea Week by raising their mugs in support of this worthy cause.

This is a great opportunity to combat loneliness among older people and make a real difference to those in need of company.

For more information about your nearest event, or for more ideas about hosting your own, call 0845 600 4622 or email communiteaweek@bupa.com.

Siobhan Drane, community affairs manager, Bupa

Central government really rules the roost

I did not know whether to fall about laughing or cry when I read Clive Hart's blog last week.

Was this really a Labour councillor talking about loss of local democratic control, or has he simply failed to notice what central government is doing?

Is it not the author of the nanny state, the creator of seemingly endless legislation, regulation, targeting and inspections, not to mention being the advocates of mass CCTV coverage, identity cards for all and microchips in dustbins? What price local democracy under

these central control freaks?

If that were not enough, he concludes that the Conservative administration in Thanet, frequently starved of funding because central government pours more money into its Labour heartlands, is tired and failed.

What exactly does he think our Labour government is after 13 wearying years and massive national debts despite dozens of new stealth taxes?

Time to wake up, Cllr Hart, for your Labour dream has turned into your Labour discharge its usual nightmare. William Epps, Broadstairs

Let's celebrate young Asperger's sufferers

In celebration of World Autism Day (April 2), I wanted to draw attention to the needs of a particular subgroup of autism, namely children with Asperger's Syndrome.

Children and young people with Asperger's usually have significant difficulties in socialising with others and making friends.

Their apparent 'oddness' can lead to teasing, social isolation and possible mental-health problems.

However, perhaps we should as a society, instead of labelling the difference, celebrate the diversity of human talents and ways of being.

In the world of maths, computing, engineering, cataloguing and science there is great value in a precise eye for details which many people with Asperger's have

For parents of children with Asperger's the choice of school is all-important. Many children with Asperger's are educated in mainstream schools.

I have written a free and simple fact-sheet on Asperger's which can be downloaded from the Appleford School website, www.appleford.wilts.sch.uk/, or you

can write to Asperger's Simplified Factsheet, Appleford School, Shrewton, Wiltshire SP3 4HL. Dr Peter Gardner, British Psychological Society

yourthanetblogger

1

This week's writer calls on the BBC to drop the sporty celebs and give straight to charity

Switch off sporty celebs and give straight to charity, BBC

EVER since David Walliams surprised everyone by swimming the English Channel for Sport Relief a few years ago the BBC has decided it has to get celebs to do similar challenges.

Mr Walliams's achievement was impressive. There was a real element of I could never do that' for most of us, but some of the more recent celebrity escapades have just been irritating rather than admirable.

The worst offender was the recent Christine Bleakley excursion to France on water-skis. We had to endure endless weeks of hyped speculation on the One Show about whether she would make it or not, but there was no chance she was ever going to fail.

There was no way the BBC would allow its top talent to come to harm, as was shown with the amount of support craft, fitness experts and water-sports advisers involved in the operation. It took Ms Bleakley 100 minutes to cross the Channel, but you can see any old Tom, Dick and Harriet noisily water-skiing for hours on end off Herne Bay during the summer, much to locals' irritation.

I would have done it on one of those inflatable banana things you see towed around sunny holiday resorts.

I know it is all for a good cause, and I am sure Ms Bleakley's motivation for doing it was sincere, but I resent the BBC cashing in on it as an exercise in self-promotion.

There have been impressive achievements this year. Eddie Izzard's 43 marathon runs in 51 days showed genuine grit and determination, but then you hear about the Blue Peter presenter who has paddled down the Amazon.

It may be for charity, but it also seems suspiciously close to what a student might do in their gap year, except she was accompanied by a camera crew for a large part of the journey.

This is an ever-growing trend in charity:

please sponsor me to ride round Europe on a motorbike for cancer, please sponsor me to walk up Mount Fuji for dogs for the deaf, or sponsor me to bungee-jump in New Zealand for those who suffer from the life- affecting disorder of vertigo. It's worthy, but it's also a very nice way to spend three weeks away.

And who pays for all this TV coverage? Is it the BBC or Sport Relief?

If it is the Beeb, why can't I just ask them to donate that element of my licence fee that pays for all the camera operators, sound engineers and video editors that have to cover these exploits directly to the charity?

Then I don't have to suffer TV schedules

Then I don't have to suffer TV schedules clogged up with it all and I can get on with watching more quality programming like Danny Dyer – I Believe In UFOs on BBC 3.

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LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10,

looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ff10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc.
Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship.
Box 450348 M ■ EY Petite, slim, honey-blonde lady, 54" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing.
Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 ■

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive,

curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea Box 459128 •

GET CLOSE Funny, cheerful lady,
44, 516°, curly hair, very social, likes
walks and pubs. looking for a cuddly
and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 467518
GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly

female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a

decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

COME ON OVER Fun-loving girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Rainham Box 854480 • •

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full fig-

ured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre, WLTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box

466617 **① NOTHING VENTURED...** Humble

NOTHING VENTURED... Humb lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286 •

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL

461938 🕡

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL
Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4,
slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 4045, up to 5ft7, to share life with.
Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box

461938 **TOYOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady 46 dark brown hair/blue eyes

E FLIRTATIOUS!

GUYS OR GIRLS HER

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ady, 46, dark brown hair/blue medium build, likes life, sociali

0905 211 0651 REPLY by Gext

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in your search for romance)

WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Oriental single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890 ©

nice guy, similar age, for lasting happi-ness. Box 851890 G

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH?! Fun-to-be-with, football loving, blonde female, 25, 15t2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her southers box 446494 G

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-vear-old female, 51f8. medium-curvy

year-old female, 5ft8, medium-curry build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 ① ②

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH MED Plus and burselts, 27, 5ft1

MEI Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ff1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me timel Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 ① ②

likes walks, swimming, VGSOH, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 • FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single

mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 •

male. Canletbury. Box 464326 1 SANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 1 COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835 1 HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 3C aring, loving, affectionate female, 3C aring, loving, affectionate female, 3C

HORSES FOR COURSES...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 52°, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship.
Box 384013 ♥
HAPPY DAYS! Altractive, fun-loving female, 35, 54°, size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, facilie, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ♥
SHREK'S APPEALL Princess

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess FIRE S APPEAL! Princess
Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek.
5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue
eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more!
Box 877957 ©

PEAST VALLE

STREET STATE

FINE STATE

FINE STREET STA FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ①

laufning, seeks loyal, ľoving man for riendship and more. Box 453079 ⊕ GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 ⊕ LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 514, mediumlarge build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usuall Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, nonsmoker, for LTR. Box 440693 •

FAMILY LIFE Fun to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392

MAGIC IN MARGATE Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, gr eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 •

FAMILY ORIENTATED Fastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life, If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 •

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 🕡



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HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST APPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT... Shy female, 40, 5fl9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wining and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 €

GENUINE MEN ONLY 42 vear old divorced family-orientated woman WLTM a loyal, caring and loving man for LTR. Love music, movies and meals out. Folkestone Box 851126

FROM ME TO YOU Fun-loving, active lady, age 43, likes skiing and horse riding, would like to meet nice looking man, who likes to go out and enjoy life! Box 850928 •

NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals, WLTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

855182 • GI SHOULD BE SO LUCKY Hello, I'M Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gsoh, looking for a man with no issues and gsoh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 • GI ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard work-

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard work-ing PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoy-ing life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 D DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5fl9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5fl9+. Box 461129 €

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5ff6, mediur build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

◆ Chatmam. Box 466612 ♥
FIT THE BILL? Fit and healthy
woman, average build. I'm 44, young
looking and love animals. I would love
to meet a sincere fella to spend time
with. Maidstone. Box 466419 ♥

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life county walks, films, cinema cooking. I'm 46, 5fl2: medium build, WLIM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 ♥ NORMAL GAL Fernale, 48, divorsed and happy, 5fl7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, fall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maldstone. Box 86530 ♥ ♥ A REAL DIAMOND African lady,

Maidstone. Box 866380 **②**A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury Box 460999 **③**

460999 **★**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **♦** DREAM LOVER Petite blonde.

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, en joy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Hochester Box 854822 **②**ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubby, 51t5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, out, cosy rights, good company Box 434089 **③ ②**DONT PASS ME BY Petite company Box 434089 **① ② DON'T PASS ME BY** Petite brunette, 51, 5ft, likes live music, pubs

and socialising, gsoh, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relation-ship. Hastings Box 467807

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **⊕**

FAMILY LIFE Warm hearted ladv. 51, look younger! I'm 5ft6, slim build, with blonde hair, divorced (grown up children), WLTM nice man, 40's/50's in the Aylesford area. Box 461834 GETTING TO KNOW YOU Slin

blonde, 51, 5ff3, very caring, active, loves DIY and gardening, WLTM a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness Box 467112

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim bu
likes eating out, the beach, travel,
seeks a friendly chap, 48-55.
Hastings. Box 417100

Hastings. Box 417100
LOVE AND LAUGHTER AND
HAPPY TIMES Petite woman, 53,
with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes,
5°3', enjoy socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a
tall, honest man, Gillingham. Box
858610
T COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky
lady, 53, 513, slim, blonde-brown hair,
blue eyes looking for a tall, honest
guy, for love and laughter and happy
times. South Kent. Box 464601
TOULD BE US HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
look South Kent. Box 464601
TOULD BE US HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
LOOK SOUTH KENT. BOX 464601
TOULD BE US HAPPY-TOULD H

times. South Kent. Box 464601

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU
CALL... Young-looking, hard-working
53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a
happy, caring person with a good
sense of humour. Non-smoker.

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?! Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the country-side, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 • •

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
Smart petite lady, 56, 5f14, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **①**

BOX 448795 TO SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 TO

43055 ← FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH Very young 59 year old, 5ft, fun loving, straight-forward, honest, GSOH, employed with own transport, many varied interests, looking for friendship and companionship initially. Box 852149 ← G

852149 • • • MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 59°, slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 • •

ship. Box 441622 **①**THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE
59yr old young-at-heart, loving
woman, I am hoping to meet a kindred spirit who loves animals, going
for walks and the romantic side of life.
Box 900143 **②**BEY YOURSELE C BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there. I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and WLTM like minded gent. Box 459467 •

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5t/4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 •

Box 464002 The Box 466003 The Box 460003 The Box 460003 The Box 460003 The Box 460003 The Box 46

Folkestone. Box 466963
SAY YES! Brighton lass, 61, 5ftz, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60's music and going to the theatre. Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107
LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown harireyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully at ITE...Margate. Box 460082
UNLIFE TIE...Margate. Box

460082 **Q QUALITY TIME** Widow, early 60's, likes dancing, drinks, gardening, socialising, and walks works, seeking a good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872 LIFE IS GOOD! Slim, attractive

LIFE IS GOOD! Slim, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and tic to give to the right person. Maidstone Box 466636 ◆
SHARE FRIENDSHIP Lady, 67 years of age, tall, dark hair, non-smoker, likes a bit of gardening, fishing, the seasified, going out, reading, crosswords. Margate. Box 467419

Women

seeking women MY HEART TO YOU 37 year old gay female from Kent, dark brown eyes, dark hair, loves the outdoors and fresh air, gardening, DIY, seeks feminine lady for love. Box 467298

LOVE TO LOVE Easygoing female 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953 **①**

43, 512, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester Box 466078

The start is the start of the start is the start of the start is the star

MEN seeking women

MEN SEEKING WOMER

STHERE ONE OUT THERE

FOR ME? Noe guy, 33, 516, slim, likes bike rides and pubs, looking for a rice lemale for a good relationship. Sittingbourne. Box 466279

FULL OF LIFE Ashlord man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 61f6, with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy pubsicibus, sating out etc. Box 467416

Ø

467416 TAKE MY HAND 36 year old single father, down to general, works full time, enjoys family time, outdoor activities, cinema, meals out, seeks a similar lady. Gillingham. Box 854242 BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an

BOTTLE OF WINE HI there, I'm easygoing male, 35, 618, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 G G

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking for a

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113 ⊕ ⊕ SPONTANEITY Young 39yr old male, good looking, 5ft9, medium build, dark hair/blue yess. I enjoy boating, country pubs, walks etc. WLTM like minded lady. Sittingbourne area. Box 467062 NEW IN TOWN Good-looking alea, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, rice

NEW IN TOWN Good-looking male, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, nice build and height, social, likes holidays, dining out, fit, seeking a woman to go out with. Rochester. Box 460825 **€**FORECAST? 38yr old male with brown hair, big smile, big heart, and

FORECAST? 38yr old male with brown hair, big smile, big heart, and big personality seeks cairing and affectionate lady for love in all weather 18 ox 434270 00 TO ENJOY LIFE Hi Im Mark, 40, 518, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTM someone trustworthy and carring to settle down with. Box 448377 00 TTS WHAT? INSIDE THAT COUNTS Loving and carring male, 40, 518t, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury, Box 458290 00

FUN & OUTGOING? Young at

FUN & OUTGOING? Young at heart 44yr old male, stocky build 51t10, Kent based, father, honest and down-to-earth, like music, nights in, walking the dog, seeks genuine lady. Box 851804 @ GROMANTIC TYPE Caring, romantic, loyal gent, 45 young, 51t11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair, walks, music, animals and pubs, seeks lady. 35-50. East Sussex. Box 465613 WALK THE BEACH Easygoing loving male, 45 dark hair, blue eyes, 51t6, slim-medium build, seeks holiday-loving lady for LTR. Ashford. Box 467263 @ THE POWER OF LOVE Brighton

467263 THE POWER OF LOVE Brighton male, 45, 5ft11, dark hair/eyes, enjoy drinking, socialising, movies, nights in, cooking and clubbing, seeking a lady with similar interests for love. Box 467735 **① HOLD ME CLOSE** Tall blond male,

HOLD ME CLUSE Iain blond male, 46, likes eating in/out, playing pool. cinema and walks, looking for a lady with similar interests. St Leonards-on-Sea Box 467792 GET TO KNOW ME Male, 46, proclium build appropriate sook hope.

QET TO KNOW ME Male, 46, medium build, easygoing, gsoh, honest, caring, 55°, likes walking, reading, visiting places of interest with a similar lady who is honest. Chatham. Box 851230 ◆
FANCY A FILM? Nice down-loearth gent, 45, 58110, short hair, slim, likes swimming reading, DVDs, chats, walks, anything really! Seeks likewise lady who likes a good chat. Chatham. Box 459876 ◆
Chatham. Box 459876 ◆

BROWSE and listen line:

0906 753 3093

BIG DEAL IN DEAL Warm, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubscubs, cosy rights in seeks like mind-ed lemale, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967 with wind leading to more Box 388967 with wind with the seeks of the seeks of the seeks of the seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508 CATCH A FALLING STAR 44-year-old man, interests include social-

year-old man, interests include social ising, days out, keeping fit, days out, seeking a caring, honest female, to share fun times. Box 433992 **①**CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU

Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274 •

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT Single dad, 47, enjoy most things in life, likes music, dvds and football, looking for a fun-loving female for a happy romance. Brighton. Box 466460 € MEDING LOVE 47yr old Brighton based man, own home/business, seeks genuine loyal local lady aged 45-50 years to share it all with. Box

LOOKING FOR AFFECTION? Fit male, 47, 6ft, slim, hard working, gsoh, genuine and honest, WLTM a lady, 35-45ish, must be friendly and outgoing. Ashford Box 466942 TREAT YOU WITH RESPECT

Friendly, bubbly man with GSOH. I know how to treat women and enjoy eating in/out, walks, socialising etc. Sittingbourne. Box 467814 1 POSITIVE ATTITUDE Good look

ing male, 49, 5ft11. I have a son of 13 who is great. I just want to find beautiful loving lady to share life with. Box 852357

GET BACK TO ME Good looking

divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box GET TOGETHER Fun. mature

male, 49, 5'8", very social, likes walks holidays, not into sport, likes young ladies 30 and under. Brighton. Box 850320 **O**LOVE AND TRUST Honest, caring

man, 50, 5'11", likes cinema, country-side, beach walks, meals out/in, restaurants, looking for honest, caring, lady 45-55. Medway area. Box

852889 **⊕ HAPPY NATURE** Happy go lucky male, 54, 5ft8, stocky build. I enjoy socialising, holidays, meeting new people etc. Looking for genuine

HAND IN HAND Easygoing mar 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates Box 861243 •

hat special person to be with soul males box 861249 box 861249 DANCING THROUGH LIFE
Active and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771 ⊕

SWEET SOUL MUSIC Healthy outgoing man 5.7 6ft10, non-smoker, brown hair, enjoys cinema, cooking and more, looking for an honest loving lady for TLC forever. New Romney, Box 467572 ⊕

AROUND AND AROUND Active male, 59', dark hair, 57, keeps fit, cycles, seeking a cuddly, curry, mature lady for friendship. Canterbury. Box 467429 good, etc. 1511'll, brown hair/eyes, gooh, enjoys cinema, nights in'out, looking for someone special for love. Alyelsord Box 410217 €

ANDY TO HAVE AROUNDI My mame's Andread Box 410217 €

NOW TO HAVE AROUNDI My mame's Andread Box 410217 €

TS A SHORE THING Gentlier.

TS A SHORE THING Gentlier.

448926 This a shore thing Genuine male, 56, 510°, GSOH, slimmedium build, like animals, cooking, beach/country walks driving, WLTM loving, caring woman, would Rose please ring back with a number? Box 459280 This country walks with a number?

459280 **♥**VARIOUS INTERESTS Tall, slim, non-smoking male, Kent area. I'm 58, and enjoy playing the piano, walking, eating out, WLTM nice, non-smoking lady with similar interests. Box 466485 **♦**

466485 **♠**A NICE WALK? Genuine chap, 60, medium build, brown hair/eyes. I enjoy socialising, pub meals, walking, cycling and I'm looking for lady with similar interests. Margate area. Box 467429

467429

SHAKE THE HAPPINESS TREE
Looking to fall for a lovely lady. I'm a
fun-to-be-with gent, 62, 5ft8, I live in
Ashford and I'd love to meet you! Box
467769

●

Men

seeking men

ing. Looking for a tail guy for fun. Box 439132 ⊕ FANCY A DVD? Caring gentle guy. 45, slim, 5fl9, short hair, looking for guys in the Medway area for fun foremost and then whatever else follows. Rochester. Box 459815 ⊕ GOOD NATURE Down-to-earth guy. 46, green eyes, dark hair, slim, enjoys holidays, music, pubs, eating in/out, WITM male, 35-50, for friendship, companionship/relationship with he right one. Birchington. Box 467785 ⊕ COME ON, GIVE US A CALLI Large passive male, 52-looks page 52-62.

Large passive male, 52- looks younger, seeking top man for fun times, friendship and love. Broadstairs Box 851908

Box 851908
SEEKING LTR Non-smoking man, 59, ex primary school teacher. I'm young looking, slim with dark brown hair. I like countryside, walking etc. Seeking similar man in Kent. Box 467440 €

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Always a welcome, and good-value food

■ The Racing Grevhound

THE atmosphere at Ramsgate's Racing Greyhound is just one of the factors that make it one of the area's most popular pubs.

Wednesday's roast dinners cost just £4.95 and are proving extremely popular, while the Tea Timer menus allow two people to eat for a bargain £7.99. These are available from 4pm to 7pm from Monday to Friday.

Thursday night is steak night, with a meal

Nr Deal CT14 0DE www.bluepigeonsatworth.co.uk

and a bottle of house wine for two costing just $\pounds 20$.

Bookings are now being taken for Easter. The function room is available for dinner parties, birthdays and other anniversaries and there is a large beer garden with children's play area and bouncy castle.

The pub is firmly established as one of the most family-friendly inns on Thanet and a function room can cater for up to 60 people.

function room can cater for up to 60 people. Children are particularly welcome and there is a large play-area in the garden.

Landlords Debbie and Keith have a practical philosophy which has proved a winner.

"Make sure all the staff know what you want from them – work hard and play hard," said licensee Keith.

"We have an excellent knowledge of the local area and we are a traditionally-run friendly pub serving good value-for-money food.

"At The Racing Greyhound we're always being told what a great atmosphere we have here.

"We make sure it is welcome for anyone, whether they are visitors to the area or come in on a regular basis. It all contributes to making for a great pub."

Racing Greyhound, 227 Hereson Road, Ramsgate. Telephone: 01843 593011







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Rural village inn is so close to all amenities

■ The Blue Pigeons

THE Blue Pigeons Inn is situated in the picturesque village of Worth, near Deal, Dover and Canterbury.

It is a village inn with letting rooms, a restaurant and a large family garden. Needless to say, it also has an attractive and well-stocked bar.

A widely-ranging menu includes dishes such as cream of mushroom and wild garlic soup or baked New Zealand mussels with tomato salsa as starters.

Popular main courses include pan-fried plaice fillet with romaine lettuce, roast pork and roast beef, along with vegetable terrine with pesto dressing.

Chocolate fondante, tarte au citron and poached pears in red wine and redcurrant are also a popular dessert choice.

The venue is in an idyllic hamlet yet is close to all amenities. The golf club at Royal St George's is just a few miles away, as is historic Sandwich.



The inn itself is opposite the picturesque church of St Peter and St George and a patio view takes in all the rural surroundings.

A beautiful 'shabby chic' lounge bar is the perfect place for a drink, and the games bar is decorated in an 1850s Regency style.

With an acre of garden, weddings, Christenings and parties of every kind can be accommodated.

Two en-suite chalets and four themed guest rooms combine to make the old vicarage building very special indeed.

On the Easter weekend, April 4 sees a threecourse à la carte menu and live entertainment. Call 01304 613 245 to book. A pub quiz will take place on April 8; information is available from the same number, while on April 17 there will be a murder-mystery night

The Blue Pigeons Inn, The Street, Worth, Deal CT14 ODE. Website: www.the bluepigeonsatworth.co.uk

CHEF RECOMMENDS

Holiday Inn

Starter: Prawn and avocado salad. Main course: T-bone steak with chunky chips, onion rings and salad. Dessert: Homemade lemon tart with vanilla ice cream. Telephone: 01843 820250

The Racing Greyhound

Starter: Deep-fried potato skins filled with crispy bacon and cheese, served with sour cream and chive dip. Main course: Fillet of cod St Jacques, served with mashed potatoes and cheese, with a parsley sauce, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables. Dessert: Gypsy tart, with ice-cream or fresh cream. Telephone: 01843 593011

Cosmo

Starter: Selection of starters, including crispy aromatic duck, satay chicken and barbecue spare ribs.

Main course: Try beef in black-bean sauce, satay prawns or duck with ginger and spring onion.

Dessert: Black Forest gateau, fruit salad or jellies.

Telephone: 01843 296668

Martins

Starter: Soup of the day – try our rich homemade tomato and basil soup. Main course: A tender salmon fillet with a tomato, onion and basil sauce. Dessert: Red cherry cheesecake – a thick biscuit base, with creamy cheesecake topped with red cherry. Telephone: 01227 750304

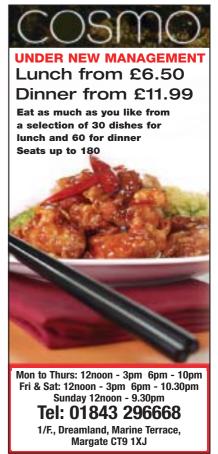
Walnut Tree

Starter: New Zealand green-lipped mussels in white wine and garlic Main course: Chicken breast with Boursin cheese, wrapped in bacon with a peppercorn sauce.

Dessert: Kentish gypsy tart. Telephone: 01233 720298









Celebrate Easter Weekend

2nd April - 5th April 2010

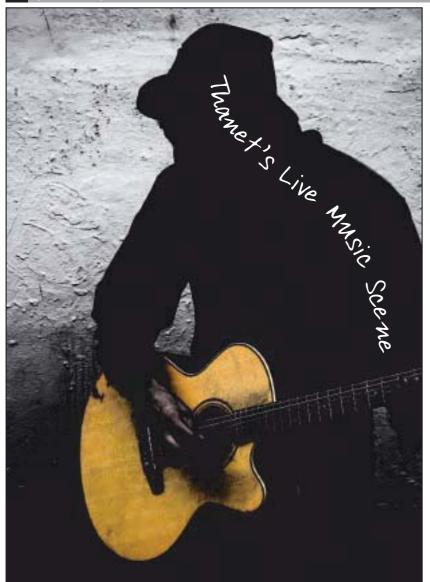
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The Fayreness Hotel Marine Drive, Kingsgate Tel: 01843 868641

The Pegwell Bay Hotel and Sir Stanley Gray Free House 81 Pegwell Road, Pegwell Village, Ramsgate Tel: 01843 599590 The Oak Hotel 66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate Tel: 01843 583686



Saturday 3rd April

EK₁

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 3rd April

Flina

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 9th April

Eyelash Guilt

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 10th April

Hot Loud Welcome

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 16th April Supersonic

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 17th April

Crazy Train

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street, Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 17th April

Black Rose

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,

Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 23rd April

Cold Shots

The Red Lion, 1 King Street, Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 24th April

Captain Mildred

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,

Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 24th April

Purity

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,

Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 30th April

Slug Pixiel

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,

Ramsgate 01843 586713



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...protection is our passion



EVENTS

11 MAR - 7 APR Watercolours by well-known local artist Diane Setek.

8 APR - 21 APR

Paintings and sculpture by Janet Aldis and Heather Defferary.

29 APR - 12 MAY SEOS at The Art Room, Preview this year's event!

Su

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DAY TRIPS

AND TOURS

	April	
ınday 4th	Dickens World	£16.00
ınday 4th	Chatham Dockyard	£16.00
esday 6th	Montreuil	£26.00
iday 9th	Tower of London	£29.00
turday 10th	Disneyland, Paris	£67.50
onday 12th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
ursday 15th	Druisillas Park	£26.00
turday 17th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
esday 20th	Montreuil	£26.00
ursday 22nd	Boulogne	£24.00
ınday 25th	London Eye, Carvery & Cruise	£59.00
ednesday 28th	St Omer	£28.00
7	May	
turday 1st	Finchcocks	£28.50
ednesday 5th	Rural Life Centre, Farnham, Surrey	£25.00

Su Sa **River Cruise & Country Drive** £19.00 Thursday 6th Sunday 9th **Monets Gardens** £42.00 Monday 10th Afternoon Cite Europe £14.00 Wednesday 12th **Leeds Castle** £20.50 Friday 14th Cambrai - Notre Dame de Grace £27.00

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DAY & NIGHT

Paintings go on show

A COLLECTION of paintings by Michael Hutchinson can be viewed at a gallery in Herne Bay this week.

Inside Out and Blue runs at the Bay Art Gallery in William Street until Easter Sunday and can be seen from

10am to 4pm ďaily. Admission is free. To find out more call 01227 372266 or go online at www.bayartgallery.co.uk.

Enjoy jive at wine bar

ENJOY live music in a period setting as Deco 5 continues its spring programme of entertainment.

The Art Deco wine bar in Whitstable hosts a performance by The Violet Jive at 9pm on Saturday. Admission is free.

To find out more about upcoming events go online at www.deco5.co.uk or call 01227 770079.

Art makes impression

DISCOVER the Art of Lithography at the University of Kent's first exhibition at a new Canterbury campus gallery. The School of Arts' Studio 3 Gallery in

the Jarman Building hosts the exhibition until May 7 and admission is free. It is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Find out more online at www.kent.ac.uk.

Book for brewery tour

FROM tasty treats to tipples, enjoy an Easter Day with a difference at Shepherd Neame in Faversham.

The brewery is offering a morning tour on Sunday and a tutored tasting with their Master of Beers, followed by lunch.

Book at www.shepherdneame.co.uk, email tours@shepherdneame.co.uk or call 01795 542016

Enjoy music of Crooner

RELAX in the company of Martin Croones this Easter Day.

Croones will be singing a selection of easy listening classics at the Kingsdown Park Holiday Park, near Deal, at 8pm on Sunday.

For more information call 01227 283445 or visit www.freewebs.com/the-

Chance to be Lion King

YOUNG people can take part in a the-atre workshop inspired by The Lion King this Easter holiday. Stage Door Theatre Company invites

anyone aged from four to 21 to join in the workshop, which runs in Margate from Tuesday to next Friday at a cost of £65. Prior experience is not necessary. Email stagedoor_enquiries@hotmail.co.uk.

Theatre workshops

THEATRE workshops are being held at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate.

Anyone aged from eight to 20 can learn about dance, choreography, drama, circus skills and much more at the workshops from Monday to Friday.

To find out more, call Trudi on 01843 855000 or email t.kingham1@btinter-

Easter treats to eep kids busy

EASTER ACTIVITIES

Friday, April 2 to Monday, April 5 Various venues

ATTRACTIONS across East Kent are determined to give visitors a fantastic Easter this year.

People of all ages are sure to find something fun to do this weekend, with so many activities and seasonal treats on offer.

From the nostalgic appeal of days gone by to the wonderful baby animals that spring brings, great experiences can be enjoyed dur-

ing this bright and optimistic time.

Take a trip back in time at Quex Park in Birchington as history comes to life in this

attractive setting.

All the fun of the fair can be enjoyed at the traditional fairground, with lots of old-fashioned rides to delight visitors of any age. Muscles will be flexed in the strong man event and visitors can enjoy the transport of yesteryear by taking a turn around the park with a carriage ride.

The interesting Victorian re-enactments give people a glimpse of what life would have been like at Quex more than 100 years ago. No Easter celebration would be complete without an egg hunt, so the traditional trail will be set up with chocolate treats on offer for those who successfully track down the treasure.

Visitors even have the chance to create their own period headgear at the bonnets and boaters family workshop.

Daily prizes will be up for grabs so everyone

should get creative and see if they can make the most impressive hat.

After all that fun, treat your stomach to some Victorian-themed gastronomic delights in the Hannah dining suite.

The event runs from 11am to 5pm, from Good Friday to Easter Monday. Admission costs £8 for a dults, £7 for children and £30 for families and tickets are valid for the entire four-day event. For more information call 01843 842168 or visit www.quexmuseum.org.

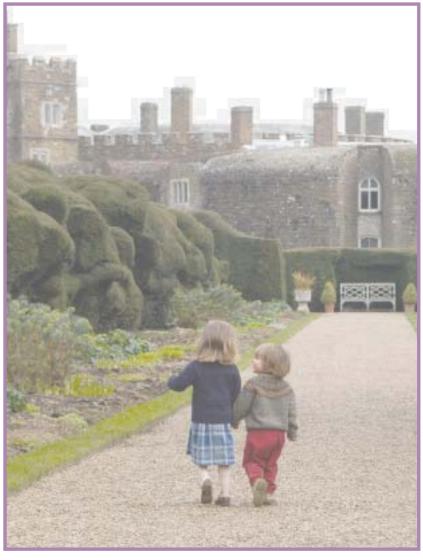
More traditional Easter fun is on offer at Walmer Castle (pictured), where children are invited to try out some timeless games

Tasty treats will be on offer for any young visitors who can complete the Easter trail, but they must hop, skip and jump their way around the grounds to discover the clues. If they successfully unscramble the mystery, they will earn some tempting chocolate morsels to take home with them.

Find out how much fun can be had with oldfashioned games, as youngsters are invited to test their balance in the egg and spoon race or see how fast they can complete the wheelbar-

Parents will not recognise their little lambs once they have been transformed into Easter characters by the talented face-painters, who use their magic to turn children into fantastic creatures. A storyteller will guide families around the castle grounds relating wonderful

Egg-citement includes treasure hunts, bonnet workshops, baby animals and story-telling



tales of fairies and folklore. Opening hours are 10am to 5pm each day. Tickets cost £7/£6 for adults, £3.50 for children and £17.50 for families. Admission is free for English Heritage members. For more information call 0870 333 1183 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

The National Trust has joined forces with Cadbury's to create this year's Easter Egg Trails and this time, they take the theme of ancient woodland. Tree-inspired trails can be enjoyed at South Foreland Lighthouse on Good Friday and Easter Saturday, followed by another at the White Cliffs of Dover on Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.

The events run from 11am to 3.30pm on all days and trail sheets cost £1 at South Foreland Lighthouse and £1.50 at the White Cliffs of Dover.

For more information call 01304 202756 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.



TO FIND MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT NEWS LOG ON AT yourkenttv.co.uk



Easter Hunt

Sunday 4th April •11am - 3pm

This Easter we will be hosting a 'Hunt the Bunny' trail on Easter Sunday. Garden admission applies, but it is **FREE** to take part in the trail. Chocolate prizes for all! Great fun for all the family.



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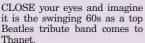






IMAGINE... THE BEATLES

Saturday, April 3, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate



Imagine... The Beatles is an astonishingly authentic tribute group that brings the sound of the Fab Four back to the live arena.

Not only does the band capture the true sound of the legendary musicians, but they also strive to recreate the excitement

vincing, audiences could close their eyes and imagine themselves to be in the presence of the real thing.

With a massive repertoire fea-turing all the Beatles' best-loved songs, any concert is sure to include a good selection of favourite hits. From the upbeat fun of Help! to the poignant optimism of Hey Jude, Imagine... The Beatles pays a stunning tribute to arguably the world's

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10/£9 in advance or £12/£10 on the door. To book call the box office on 01843 591750.





THE BOY FRIEND

Friday, April 2 to Monday, April 5, Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

THE romance and warmth of

the French Riviera are brought to the Kent stage in musical comedy, The Boy Friend.
Stardust Theatre Company brings Sandy Wilson's popular story to life in a production that is sure to fill everyone with the

spirit of spring. Featuring lots of catchy songs and a bright, funny storyline, The Boy Friend is the perfect Easter theatrical treat.

Set during the Roaring 20s, the story follows a group of young women who are preparing for a fancy dress ball.

Although young Polly has made up a boyfriend, she feels

left out as the event approaches, but a fateful encounter could turn everything around.

Directed by Joe Hodges, the show features a full orchestra conducted by Myles Ratcliffe. Performances start at 7,30pm on Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Monday, with 2.30pm matinees on Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

Tickets cost £8 for Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members and £10 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. Call 0845 262 6263 or email info@ sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk to reserve.

MAGICAL FAERIE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 3 to Monday., April 5 **Canterbury City Centre**

EXPERIENCE a truly magical Easter with the return of the Magical Faerie Festival this weekend.

Whether you believe in magic or not, the city centre will have an enchanted feeling as the UK's largest faerie event celebrates the miracle of spring, nature and childhood. After the Faerie Ball at Abode on Good Friday, the festival truly gets underway with the colourful High Street parade outside the Westgate Hall at 10am on Saturday. Featuring giants, drummers, faerie dancers, elves and a real-life Viking, this striking parade will be led by the Chief Faerie.

Special guests from around the world will be taking part in the three-day family event, which is packed with performances and workshops. Guests include Priscilla Hernandez from Spain, Laurel Airica from the US and the UK's own Tim Wheater With more than 70 stalls to browse, visitors to the Westgate Hall will find a huge variety of gifts and pixie items to buy, plus work by more than 20 artists.

Tickets cost £6/£3. To find out more visit www.magicalfestivals.co.uk or call 07845 438340.



ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Saturday, April 3, Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville

DISAPPEAR down the rabbit hole and embark on some magical Adventures in Wonderland.

Enjoy this wonderful family show for free this weekend as Tom Thumb Theatre and Scandalmongers Theatre Company present the classic tale, in association with Theatre Royal Margate. As Tim Burton's vision of Alice in Wonderland delights cinemagoers, this stage production will enchant audiences as it takes place inside and outside the Tom Thumb Theatre.

Scandalmongers will take the show on a national tour next year, so this is a great opportunity to see the production free in a local venue.

The audience will be enchanted as Alice tells her amazing tales and joins the Mad Hatter for the world's oddest tea party.

Bring a picnic and settle down for this family show that runs from 11am to 3pm.

The Tom Thumb Theatre is also offering Play in a Day events on Wednesday, April 7 for children aged 11 and above, followed by an event for ages seven to 11 on Saturday, April 10. Admission costs £20.

To find out more call 01843 221791 or email

info@tomthumbtheatre.co.uk.





A GREAT DEAL OF DANCE

Various dates, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

TAKE the opportunity to enjoy A Great Deal of Dance at the Gulbenkian this spring.

Dance enthusiasts can see three fantastic shows for £30, taking in ballet and contemporary dance.

The series starts with Ballet Central this Thursday,

when they bring their 25th anniversary tour to Canterbury, performing a selection of ballet, contemporary and jazz pieces.

On Thursday, April 29, the Northern School of

Contemporary Dance returns with its postgraduate performance company, Verve. Featuring works by top international choreographers, their bill is sure to

appeal to a variety of tastes.

More emerging talent will be on display when EDge performs on Thursday, May 6. As the postgraduate per-formance company of London Contemporary Dance School, EDge features young dancers just starting out.

Tickets usually cost £12, but A Great Deal of Dance offers all three shows for £30, a saving of £6. Book online at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.



Nanny McPhee is an angel in disguise – warts and all

BY **DAMON SMITH**

RELEASED in 2005, the original Nanny McPhee was a strong successor to Mary Poppins in every

Adapted from the Nurse Matilda books by Christianna Brand, the film pitted seven mischievous tykes against an ugly woman with a snaggle tooth, warts and an oversized nose, who had a few tricks up her sleeve when it came to childcare.

Susanna White's colourful sequel casts an even more bewitching spell, introducing the mysterious nanny to a family in crisis in wartime Britain.

Nanny McPhee & The Big Bang is a glorious romp that once again demonstrates Emma Thompson's magical touch in front of and behind the camera.

As screenwriter, she crafts believable, funny and endearing characters, whose plights move us to laughter and tears as the plot twists and turns in unexpected directions.

In her guise as the eponymous guardian angel, Thompson underlines the central message about inner beauty with another sparkling performance. Also, she gels wonderfully with her young co-stars, who capture the emotional distress of children who are separated from their military-bound fathers.

While her husband (Ewan McGregor) is away at war, Mrs Green (Maggie Gyllenhaal) valiantly takes care of the farm with her three children, Norman, Megsie and Vincent.

When she's not tending the homestead, Mrs Green earns a little money in the village shop, run by doddering Mrs Docherty (Dame Maggie Smith).

Chaos ensues when snooty, well-to-do cousins Cyril and Celia come to stay and take an immediate dislike to the rest of the brood.

"We have come from far away - from the



BEWITCHING: Emma Thompson presents a strong message about inner beauty in her role as Nanny McPhee

land of soap and indoor toilets," announces Cyril.

"Kill the townies and eat their heads!" scream the farm children.

McPhee (Emma Thankfully, Nanny Thompson) arrives in the nick of time and uses her special walking stick to show the little brats that the best way to overcome any problem is to work together.

Meanwhile, Mrs Green's brother Phil (Rhys Ifans) schemes to get his sister to sell the farm so he can pay off his spiralling debts and avoid a beating from Miss Topsey and hulking sidekick, Miss Turvey.

Nanny McPhee & The Big Bang is a treat for kids big and small, striking just the right balance between cuteness and heart-tugging sentiment, not least when Cyril heads to London to beg his father (Ralph Fiennes) for a favour.

Smith, Ifans and the demented double-act of Miss Topsey and Miss Turvey provide unadulterated comic relief, aided by a litter of syn-

VIEW THIS PREVIEW



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yourkenttv.co.uk

chronised swimming pigs. Young actors impress with their timing and cry convincingly in pivotal scenes.

The explosive ending leaves a lump in the throat that keeps the barn door open for another visit from the enigmatic governess.





COUNTRYSIDE CURES: Botanist and smiling home pharmacist James Wong

YOUR TV REVIEW

I'M MORE at home with a packet of Rennies than a homemade remedy

when it comes to shifting gut rot. It's borne out of convenience more than choice, but that's the way life is for most of us, yet I find Grow Your Own Drugs totally mesmerising.

Beaming from ear-to-ear ethnobotanist James Wong strides out into the countryside to do his fair share of leaf sniffing and flower stroking.

Then he fills his boots with nature's bounty, to knock up potions galore.

He reckons the cures to a million ills can be blended simply using what can be found in the British countryside, and who am I to argue?

As interesting and strangely calming as this is, you have to wonder how many people are knocking up their own anti-dandruff oil, as the processes he goes through seem hugely time-consuming.

BY TOM BETTS

There's never a shortage of cookery shows on TV, and the latest to bubble its way on to our screens is The Delicious Miss Dahl, with the latest would-be sexy domestic goddess, Sophie Dahl.

GROW YOUR OWN DRUGS: BBC2, 8pm, Tuesday

THE DELICIOUS MISS DAHL: BBC2, 8.30pm, Tuesday

The granddaughter of renowned children's author Roald Dahl has swapped the catwalk for the kitchen, and gone all Nigella on us.

I'm just not sure it is very convinc-

Each cookery segment is neatly titled with a Quentin Blake-esque illustration, much like the chapters of one of her grandfather's books, but it's a touch which only exaggerates the fact that this is all style over sub-

The recipes seem great, but our

host seems rather wooden and overawed by the whole thing. I'm just not convinced she has the chemistry to carry a show in which she is the only person to appear on screen.

I'm writing this off the back of the first show, and perhaps things will get a little sharper, but in parts of the first episode it was painfully stilted.

She may be pretty as a picture but Sophie, all batting eyelashes and muddled blonde locks, seems less at home with the camera than you would think for someone used to strutting down the runway.

At times it seemed as if she had completely ground to a halt, and you wondered if someone had put her on pause while the visuals continued to

This is a six part series, but I'll wager it will be the only six parts we

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EASTER

Chocolat

Happy EGG



Canterbury

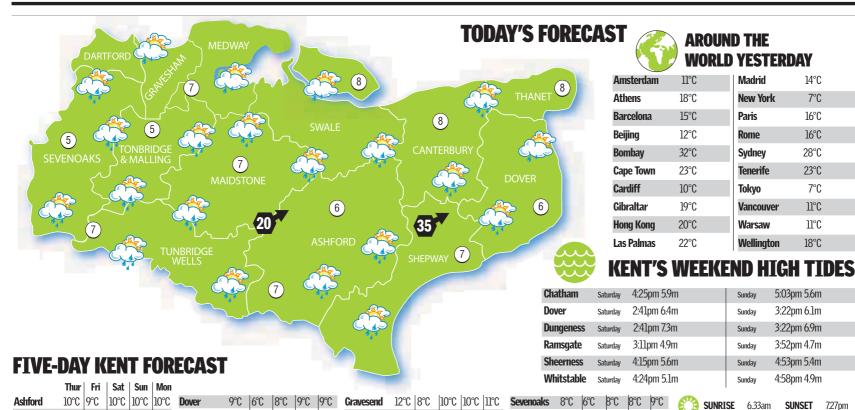
Chatham

Dartford

10°C |9°C

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11°C 8°C 9°C 10°C 11°C

10°C 9°C 10°C 10°C 10°C

10°C 9°C 9°C 9°C Tun Wells

Sittingbourne10°C |9°C

Tonbridge 10°C 8°C 9°C

10°C 8°C



9°C

9°C

Folkestone 9°C 6°C 8°C 9°C 9°C

Maidstone

Ramsgate

Rochester

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12°C 8°C 10°C 10°C 11°C Gillingham 10°C 9°C 9°C 9°C 9°C

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Find out more at www.cushelle.com

If you're as fond of softness as the Cushelle koala enter this competition to win a king-size duck feather duvet, a pair of pillows, a luxurious

of Egyptian cotton towels, a towel for babies/young toddlers, hooded Cushelle koala toy, a set of bath and a pack of Cushelle toilet tistoys, sue – we have two sets to giveaway.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Cushelle Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is April 25, 2010.

No purchase necessary

Question: What is a baby koala called? a) Puppy b) Joey c) Kitten

• For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.





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INSTRUMENTAL KINGS: UpC DownC are one of four bands at the Command House

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

RECESSION-busting plug of the week; see four top bands for just £3.

The inarguably impressive value-for-money promo takes place at the Command House, Chatham, on Saturday, April 10 and features UpC DownC, Let Our Enemies Beware, Bela Lugosi Blues and Delta Sleep.

That equates to 75p per band. To put it another way, you can see four headline slot-worthy acts for the price of a pint of Guinness.

For the price of two pints of Guinness you could see the bands

and enjoy a pint of Guinness.
First up on the night are
Canterbury post-rockers Delta
Sleep, formerly known as Savlon.

The five-piece are among the county's leading crowd-paraly-sers – the kind of left-field band that produce six-minute mini epics that leave an audience so mind-mangled and enthralled that they are incapable of any movement beyond a rhythmic head nod or foot tap.

They're jangly yet soothing.

Next up is mostly-Medway-

based rockers Bela Lugosi Blues, led by former Barbs and What Would Jesus Drive frontman Tim

The polished quartet belie their age. Despite only forming last year, the outfit has put together a number of chart-worthy tracks, with What You Advertise standing out in particular.

Let Our Enemies Beware will crank the guitar levels up a notch when they follow the Blues on

stage.

The Medway post-punk rockers are much more than your average three-guitar 'metal' outfits, yo-yoing from prolonged dark instrumentals to intricate, almost calming 30-second fills.

Their debut album, Against Karate, was released last year to critical acclaim and was even backed by irritating straggly-bearded Kiwi DJ/VJ Zane Lowe.

Topping the night off are instrumental kings UpC DownC.

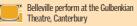
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Ben Jukes performs Keane's song

Everybody's Changing







Happy Daze - 3/4 Canterbury Conservative

2 Rogues Down - 5/4 The Forum Tunbridge

Save Target As - 6/4 Kent Uni Canterbury 4 A Thousand Lights - 9/4 King Edward VII

Craig Sheridan - 10/4 The Alma Deal

If there was an award for deviating furthest from the norm of true 'pop' without becoming intolerably self-indulgent and unnecessarily alternative, UpC would win hands down.

They're always worth a view live. Particularly for the sum of

For more information on the gig visit www.bit.ly/bkINrp



UTTER RELAXATION: Slip between the hot tub and the pool as you are transported from one glamourous destination to the next

yourgetaways *

Enjoy the good life as you take in highlights of Med

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

AS FAR as earth-shattering epiphanies go, the realisation that laid-back ocean cruises are one of life's greatest offerings is among my least profound.

After all, it's a bit of a given that being slowly sailed across the seas on a luxury cruise liner is somewhat of a pleasant getaway.

The first clue is in the price tag. Nevertheless, the penny finally

dropped for me on day three.

It was about 4pm, and we were sailing from Madeira to Malaga, southern Spain, and I was soaking up the sun in a poolside hot tub.

As I watched the world go by I realised that cruise holidays are almost entirely decision-free, and consequently almost entirely stress-

All the run-of-the-mill holiday con-

cerns are taken out of your hands.

There is no need to fret about where to go, how you are going to get there, what to do about food and many more mundane issues besides that stand in the way between you and utter relaxation.

On a cruise, the ship's captain and his doting staff are expected to take care of these potential problems, leaving you with nothing more taxing to ponder than pool or hot tub.

And so it proved for me on NCL's

nine-night Canary Islands and Morocco fly-cruise, which starts and ends in Barcelona, Spain.

I and a four-strong contingent of fellow journalists joined the 14-deck Norwegian Jade cruise liner in Gran Canaria, replacing five other

FACT FILE:

Time difference +One hour Language English Currency **US** dollar

Norwegian Jade's nine-night Canary Islands and Morocco fly cruise always departs on a Friday. Available dates for this year are; April 9 and December 3 and 24. Next year ships will set sail on

January 14, February 4 and 25, March 18 and April 8 The cruise is as follows: Fly

UK/Barcelona, Casablanca Agadir, Las Palmas, Funchal, Malaga (Granada), Barcelona, Fly UK.

Prices start from £849 (based on flights from Heathrow, and on two sharing). For more information visit www.ncl.co.uk or call 0845 201900

reporters who had been treated to the first half of the Mediterranean round trip.

As we headed for our first stop, the isolated island of Madeira, I took my first look at my new floating home.

The giant vessel contains living quarters for 2,400 guests and a further 1,000 staff, a dozen restaurants, theatre, bars, gym, spa, basketball court, sun deck, casino, and – for the highest of high-spenders - a private, secluded suntrap, plunge pool and

Despite carrying a combined population of 3,400 people, the ship's impressive design and layout masks this, giving the constant impression that the vessel is practically empty.

During our cruise we were treated to pre-dinner drinks in a number of the ship's open lounge bars, where we were entertained by a range of experienced musicians and performers, before dining in a number of the cover-charged restaurants.

Entertainment continues through the night in the form of live bands, theatre shows, stand-up comedians and a nightly disco.

Away from the fine dining, drinking and dancing, we enjoyed brief soirees ashore in Madeira, Malaga and finally Barcelona.

Madeira enjoys a slower pace of life, with small town centre streets winding around bustling markets and churches on their way to the seafront.

Our deepest journey inland came in Malaga, when we took a minibus to the stunning Nerja caves, discovered 50 years ago by a group of intrepid schoolboys.

Dating back five million years, the caves play host to hundreds of stalagmites and stalagtites as well as Palaeolithic wall paintings.

Barcelona, I'm told, is beautiful, however I was only able to catch a glimpse of the city as we were driven directly from the port to the airport for our flight home.

Cruises are calming and give holidaymakers the chance to relax while making short stops at a number of destinations.

Personally, I would have enjoyed at least one night's stay at each stop, in order to take a deeper look inland without fear of missing the boat.

Being a hardy Brit, the ship's USstyled tips and add-ons culture was also unappreciated, but perhaps I'm picking at faults that aren't there.

Cruise life is a good life.

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MOTORS NEWS



Special Clio marks the car's 20th anniversary

WAS it really 20 years ago that those Papa and Nicole ads made Britain fall for the Clin?

It was a love affair that Renault needed; its habit of selling cars by numbers – like the Clio's once popular Renault 5 predecessor – wasn't adding up any more.

cessor – wasn't adding up any more. But then came the lifesaving Clio and its regular place in the UK top-ten sales chart. And, two decades and three Clio generations on, that pivotal moment is being celebrated with a Clio '20th' special edition from £14,671.



Return from the dead as Saab unveil new 9-5

ORDER books are open for the car that marks Saab's return from the dead.

Production had stopped at the Swedish car icon's plant after former parent General Motors had decided to cut its losses, but a rescue plan involving Dutch supercar maker Spyker, means the new Saab 9-5 executive model will live after all.

Prices start from £26,495 for the well-specified 2.0TiD 160PS Vector SE model, which makes it competitive in the premium executive saloon sector, while flagship Aero models are from £31,495.



Skoda's happy swapping to keep buyers' interest

SCRAPPAGE is finished so carmakers are hunting desperately for new wheezes to keep sales momentum going in the wake of the Government-backed incentive to swap old cars for new ones.

Skoda's answer is 'Happy Swapping': vehicles with a '52 registration or older can be swapped to get a minimum of £2,000 off a new Skoda, which could be a Fabia supermini from £7,340 or the executive class Superb from £14,165. The car simply needs to have a valid MOT certificate, tax, insurance and be driveable.



FLEXIBLE FRIEND: General Motors has flexed every cabin 'muscle' in search of giving its Vauxhall arm versatility and added storage and is shown off beautifully in the new Astra

Flexing its cabin muscles gives Astra real appeal

VAUXHALL has gone 'Flex' mad.

It started with the fold away Flex 7 seating of the original Zafira MPV.

The General Motors brand has since flexed every cabin 'muscle' it can find in search of versatility and storage potential.

And now the new generation five-door British-built Astra has had the same workout.

Cornered into doing the supermarket run, I arrived at the rear hatch of the Vauxhall prepared to throw the groceries in and sort 'em out later... as you do.

But I remembered Vauxhall blurb about the false and folding boot floor; after a quick right-angled flip of the rearmost section, I was able to corral the 'bags for life' in the convenient trough created.

Lateral thinking elsewhere has made the Astra so easy to live with – there's even a 12v socket at the rear of the central column so that kids' game consoles and DVD players can be plugged in easily.

The approach is a bonus on top of distinctive styling and the tidy ride and handling, helped by a revitalised invention from 18th century steam pioneer James Watt.

ROAD TEST VAUXHALL ASTRA

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Green rating	****

The 'Watts linkage' on the rear suspension counters lateral pressures when cornering hard and all Astras I've driven so far tempt this and with confidence.

It underlines Vauxhall's intent to shift into the more demanding private sector rather than the big volume/low margin fleet sector that was its preferred habitat.

The car feels huge inside; a long wheelbase and a dashboard set well away from front passengers makes you believe you are in a car from the class above while cleverly shaped rear windows suggest a racy downswept roofline yet there is ample rear headroom.

However, I mark it slightly below the less visually arresting VW Golf for ultimate refinement and handling plus snob appeal, reflected by higher projected used values for the German car.

Despite generous standard kit, Astra list prices are also unrealistic.

They start from £16,000 and the flagship spec 1.7 (125PS/123bhp with 60mpg average) CDTi Elite diesel test car costs £22,415 officially, for instance.

I don't even need to ask dealers whether they want to read that fairy tale to customers, but you might ask them for the real story.



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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands.'



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Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2007 Brilliant Silver Metallic 22,473 miles * Automatic Petrol £7,495

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback Dec 2007

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Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback Mar 2007

Beige Metallic 21,200 miles * Manual Petrol £5,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Comfort (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2004 Graphite Grey Metallic 48.500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4.99

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback Sep 2006

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback Dec 2006 Silver Lightning Metallic 33,364 miles * Manual Petrol £6,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate Jan 2005

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV Nov 2003

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback Apr 2007 Black Magic Metallic 40.055 miles * Manual Petrol £6.295

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback Aug 2006 Royal Blue Metallic 17,376 miles * Manual Petrol £4,295

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar 2002

Renault Megane 1.4 Fidji 5-Dr Hatchback Jul 2002

Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression + 5-Dr Hatchback Apr 2001 Norse Grev Metallic 71,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £2,795

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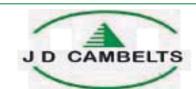


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PROPERTY NEWS

Overpaying could save you a fortune

Steve Osborne, The Mortgage Man, shares his kowledge with you in this new fortnightly column



EVERYONE likes to save money, but not everyone takes the opportunity to save huge sums of money by taking advantage of low interest rates.

If "every cloud has a silver lining", then while low rates are clearly bad news for savers they really are great news for borrowers, many of whom may not have realised quite how good that

If you are one of those people who respond to falling mortgage costs simply by spending money on going out more often or booking a holiday, you are missing the chance to save tens of thousands of pounds in the longer term.

Smart borrowers have realised that not only can they enjoy reduced monthly outgoings in the short term, but they can also clear the mortgage faster and save a sizeable amount of interest by making overpayments.

And I'm not talking about a few hundred pounds here.

For many borrowers the rate payable now is much less than the rate they were quoted when the mortgage was taken out, so you could even argue that they are effectively paying off their mortgage faster at no extra cost.

For an 'average mortgage' of, say, £100,000 at a rate of 6 per cent, an additional payment of £100 per month will shorten your mortgage term by about six years and save you about £27,000. Yes, £27,000 - just for continuing to pay what you had already got used to paying before rates fell.

I do not expect low rates to be around forever, so, like diets and other resolutions, the sooner you start the better.

Different lenders have different rules

about making overpayments, so it's important to seek professional financial advice before proceeding. But please, don't be put off.

The path to big savings is fairly simple and trouble-free; you might even be able to move your mortgage to a lower rate and save even more than you thought.

> Steve Osborne - Director The Mortgage Company



Lenders 'must take risks to kick-start the market'

BY **NICK AMES**

PROPERTY analysts say lenders must take more risks with their capital to boost the market.

They say that too many are too cautious, as they do not want to see themselves losing out financially. Timothy Lambert, head of consulting at property

investment consultancy Ducalian, explained that mortgage lenders were obliged to provide more loans, but were being very careful.

"With a change of government likely within four months, lenders are also wary of fixed-rate mortgages as interest rates can only go one way and inflation is starting to rise fast," he said.

Many people were also conscious of the possibility of a double-dip recession, Mr Lambert added, calling the mortgage-market picture "artificial" because of

Mortgage-lending would recover in time, but only when confidence returned to lenders, he concluded.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that gross lending fell to about £9.1 billion last month, a decline of almost a third on December's level of £13.4 billion.

The current trends in lending have also come under the microscope as experts seek to predict movements within the property market in the com-

Property purchases are likely to be at a lower level in the first few months of 2010, following a boost in December when buyers move to take advantage of the stamp duty concession, said Bernard Clarke, spokesman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

"We are still in a market in which it is not as competitive as it was and those circumstances will only improve very slowly," he said.

Mr Clarke called for measures to address the shortage of mortgage funding, pointing out that recovery in the property market would be slow if the £300 bil-

lion shortfall was not made up. More than half – 58 per cent – of mortgage brokers expect to see an increase in business in the first three months of this year, research from Paragon Mortgages has revealed. On average, they are predicting a rise of 7.1 per cent.



Fall in prices spark fears of double dip recession

HOUSE prices dropped in March month on month from February for the first time on

March has always marked the beginning of the spring increase in property values, but the Halifax and Nationwide Building Societies both reported a drop in house prices this

"There are fears of a double-dip recession in the housing market, but LetAssured UK believes that February's drop was fuelled by

mortgage unavailability and the continuing cold weather which restricted activity," said David Plaister, of LetAssured UK.

"The weather conditions in January and February undoubtedly had a bearing on activity," said the chief economist at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Simon Rubinsohn.

"Prices will go up over the next three to six months and then they might stabilise.

"Interest rates may rise in the fourth quar-

ter of this year. That could arrest the upward move in prices and begin to backtrack towards the end of 2010," he added.

"LetAssured is still advising its clients that there are realistic property prices for the shrewd buy-to-let investor who researches his properties and agent correctly.

"Current asking prices linked to sensible mortgage products should stand investors in good stead and compensate for any future hikes in interest rates."

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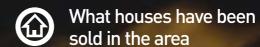


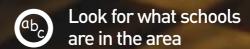
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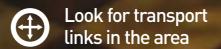
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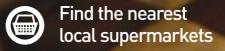
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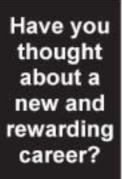


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PLEASED: Jim Ward says Ramsgate were well worth their win

Win reward for improvement, says Ward

RAMSGATE manager Jim Ward believes his side have turned a corner after recording their first win at Southwood Stadium in eight attempts.

However, he insists the victory was not a case of getting a monkey off their backs, but simply a reward for the Rams' improved performances in recent weeks.

After wins at Ashford Town and Godalming Town, Ramsgate had clearly halted their desperate slide which saw them go 11 games without a win, but their stuttering home record

FOOTBALL

had become something of a stumbling

Ward said: "We never found it as a monkey, we've been playing well and we've now won three of our last five

games so I'm quite pleased with that.
"Walton are a tough side and they
dominated in the first half – we couldn't get the ball off them but we defended resolutely. In the second half, we got the ball down and passed it, we got at

on the field for the penalty incident."

Ward handed a debut to 16-year-old Ryan Harker – a player he believes has a big role to play in 2010/11 – and praised the continued good form of Gary Lockyer in attack.

The inclusion of Sammy Brannan on the bench was another hint at the next generation of Rams, although there was bad news for Ward as Will Graham twisted his knee, making him a doubt for Saturday's trip to lowly Eastbourne Town.

RUGBY



ON THE UP: Thanet Wanderers are playing better

Wanderers give Cobham a fright

Cobham 30 Thanet Wanderers 26

THERE was no disgrace in defeat for Thanet Wanderers on Saturday as they came to within one score of upsetting the side ranked third in London 1 South.

Thanet beat Cobham 19-15 when the sides met at St Peter's in December and this encounter proved to be just as tight with the Surrey side eventually edging it.

Cobham made a flying start and scored their first try of the afternoon with just five minutes on the clock. It looked as though that would set the tone but Wanderers hit back soon after as Richard Eldridge crossed to score and added the conversion himself

The hosts restored their lead with two more tries and should have cemented their dominance but a mistake allowed Neil Wakefield to swoop and run in under the posts, with Eldridge again adding the extras.

Pressure

Next to strike was Thanet scrum-half Daniel Hamilton, kicking ahead and driving over to score underneath the posts, although Cobham maintained the upper hand to keep the visitors at arms' length.

Tom Ash added another try to his col-

lection late in the game following a sustained spell of Thanet pressure, but

Cobham were able to hang on for victory.

Thanet 1st XV manager Michelle McLean said: "We are getting better and our results have been better. Cobham were always going to be tough but they've had some poor results lately and we went there confident we could get the win.

"Our performances have been on the up since Christmas, even before Darryl [Vas, previous head coach] left. We're close to the end of the season now and the focus now is to win our last two games

Saturday sees Thanet travel to Sidcup, with their Kent rivals still in the shakeup for a promotion play-off, before they go to Old Colfeians on April 10.





THE WAIT IS OVER: From left, Gary Mickelborough, Tom Tsangarides and Andy Hadden celebrate the winning goal as Ramsgate won their first game at Southwood since last year

Rams give their home fans something to cheer at last

FOR the first time since mid-December, Ramsgate picked up three points in front of their own fans with a narrow victory over play-off hopefuls Walton Hersham on Saturday.

The Rams had to withstand a first-half barrage from the south London side but once Liam Quinn and Gary Mickelborough had struck within nine minutes of each other, there was only going to be one winner.

Jim Ward named Mickelborough alongside Tom Tsangarides and Gary Lockyer in a three-pronged attack but his side were on the back foot almost from the first whistle

When Sam Mott missed his punch from a Walton corner, Michael Charles was narrowly offtarget at the far post and Graham Harper then struck the post after good work by Junior Kaffo.

Rams skipper Warren Schulz attempted to alleviate the pressure with a rare foray forward but his endeavours were cut short by a strong Will Jenkins tackle.

Charles and Martin Grant both went close for the Swans with an opening goal seemingly inevitable and Tommy Williams' free-kick then drew a good save from Mott.

FOOTBALL

BY STEVE TERVET

Ramsgate 2
Quinn 48, Mickelborough 57 pen

Walton & Hersham 1



Gary Mickelborough's header wide from a corner was the closest the Rams came to scoring in a one-sided first period but they flew out of the traps after the break.

Andy Hadden sent in a dangerous corner and Liam Quinn was on hand to meet the ball two yards out and give Ramsgate the lead they barely deserved.

The Swans looked to fight back but Mott saved Grant's effort and Mickelborough could have made it 2-0 when his lob beat Delroy Preddie but dropped just over the bar.

However, Mickelborough was not to be denied for long as Ramsgate doubled their lead in the 57th minute. Elliott Brathwaite appeared to have got the better of Tsangarides but he then lost possession and fouled the Ramsgate starting XI



Subs used: Harker (Graham 60), Lawson (Mickelborough 88)

striker, leaving the referee no choice but to award a penalty.

Mickelborough stepped forward and made no mistake with his spot-kick, netting for the 17th time this season. With the Rams well on top, the game could have been over if Preddie had not pulled off a fine save to deny Laslett moments later.

Walton thought they had pulled a goal back when Adam Broomhead tucked home the rebound after Williams' free-kick was saved but he was ruled offside. Broomhead did get on the scoresheet in the 86th minute but it came too late for the visitors to salvage a point.

Ramsgate were back at Southwood last night (Tuesday) as they hosted Leatherhead. Log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk for match details.

Blues grab valuable point in battle to avoid the drop

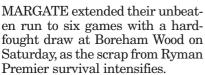
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Boreham Wood 1

Margate 1

Huggins 29



The draw left the Blues two points from safety, having played a game more than the other three sides in the relegation places, with six games now remaining to haul themselves to safety - something which looked almost impossible three weeks ago.

Following their 1-0 win at leaders Dartford last Tuesday, Iain O'Connell was forced to make two changes to his starting line-up, with John Keister suspended and Ty Benjamin failing to recover from his toe injury.

In came Tommy Osborne for his Gate debut in central defence, while Curtis Robinson returned from suspension, allowing Dan Stubbs to resume his regular midfield duties.

Since switching to a 5-3-2 formation, O'Connell has turned Margate into a tight



RETURN: Curtis Robinson (blue) was back from suspension to help Margate battle to a draw against Boreham Wood

defensive unit and they held their own in a first half which saw Boreham dominate possession but fail to create too many clear-cut

When they did breach the Blues' backline they found goalkeeper Jamie Turner in inspired form and it was the visitors who went ahead shortly before the half-hour mark.

Sam Jones, so often at the heart of Margate's best attacking moves, was once again the instigator as he played in Robinson down the left wing. His ball inside was turned home by Leroy Huggins, nipping in between defender and goalkeeper to score for the fourth time

Margate starting XI



Subs used: Groombridge (Robinson 68), Grant (Huggins 77)

in six games since arriving from VCD Athletic. However, the lead lasted just 14 minutes as Wood snatched a timely equaliser through Leon Hunter. Luke Garrard's ball from the right was not dealt with by the Blues defence and Hunter was on hand to slide the ball home at the far post.

Goalmouth action was at a premium in the second half as both sides, equally desperate for the points, cancelled each other out. Margate's good work was almost undone in the dying seconds, though, when Chris Watters' free-kick was palmed out by Turner and Inih Effiong somehow poked the rebound wide from two yards.

Bognor make the long trip to Hartsdown on Saturday, with O'Connell keen to keep a tighter ship than when the Blues, under the management of Mark Butler, threw away a lead before grabbing a dramatic 3-3 draw in

Margate travelled to Carshalton Athletic for a relegation six-pointer last night. Log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk for match details.

FOOTBALL



POINTS DROPPED: Iain O'Connell said his players were disappointed not to pick up a valuable win

Gate boss delighted with team's attitude in battle for survival

THERE were no smiles among the Margate squad after their 1-1 draw at Boreham Wood on Saturday, much to the satisfaction of manager Iain O'Connell.

The Hertfordshire side are among those chasing a play-off place and promotion to Blue Square South, while the Blues are desperately trying to avoid relegation to the Ryman South.

Despite the apparent gap between the sides, though, the Blues left disappointed not to have picked up all three points, particularly with rivals Carshalton Athletic

winning 2-1 at Ashford Town.
O'Connell said: "We've gone six games unbeaten and the players have got the confidence which they've been lacking all season. I came into the changing room after Saturday's game and the players were gutted not to have won. I was pleased to see that because previously, they'd have been happy with a point.

Implications

"It was a really good result for us because they're a decent side. To go away to Dartford and Boreham Wood and take four points, I don't think anyone would thought we could do that apart from myself, the players and the chairman."

The Blues welcome Bognor Regis Town to

Hartsdown Park on Saturday for a game which will have huge implications in the battle to beat the drop. There are a cluster of sides fighting to stay up and O'Connell knows every point is now crucial.

He said: "Bognor is another six-pointer and

the next two games are so important. All the bottom teams seem to be getting results and Billericay have sacked their manager [Brian Statham] which I find really weird because

they're one of the form teams."

Margate's Easter programme continues on Monday as they prepare for a Kent derby against the division's form team, Tonbridge Angels. To find out how the Blues got on against Carshalton Athletic last night (Tuesday), log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	34	23	4	7	+43	73
2 Kingstonian	36	19	6	11	+10	63
3 Sutton United	35	18	8	9	+20	62
4 Boreham Wood	36	16	6	14	+5	54
5 Tonbridge Angels	35	16	6	13	+3	54
6 Hastings United	35	15	8	12	+8	53
7 Wealdstone	33	13	12	8	+1	51
8 Tooting & Mitcham United	37	14	9	14	-1	51
9 AFC Hornchurch	35	13	11	11	+2	50
10 Horsham	36	14	7	15	+2	49
11 Canvey Island	36	13	10	13	0	49
12 Aveley	33	14	6	13	+9	48
13 Hendon	34	13	6	15	-1	45
14 Harrow Borough	35	11	11	13	-1	44
15 Ashford Town (Middx)	35	11	10	14	-7	43
16 Cray Wanderers	36	12	7	17	-17	43
17 Billericay Town	35	10	12	13	-1	42
18 Maidstone United	35	10	9	16	-14	39
19 Carshalton Athletic	34	9	11	14	-9	38
20 Margate	35	9	10	16	-21	37
21 Waltham Abbey	34	9	8	17	-17	35
22 Bognor Regis Town	34	7	13	14	-14	34

DVMAN DIVISION ONE COULT

KLINIWIA DI ATOTOM	UN	L JUUI	П				
1 Croydon Athletic	33	21	6	6	+38	69	
2 Folkestone Invicta (-10)	34	24	6	4	+26	68	
3 Worthing	35	21	3	11	+26	66	
4 Fleet Town	35	18	5	12	+18	59	
5 Godalming Town (-3)	33	19	4	10	+18	58	
6 Burgess Hill Town	34	16	9	9	+]]	57	
7 Sittingbourne	33	17	5	11	+21	56	
8 Walton & Hersham	36	16	7	13	+5	55	
9 Leatherhead	33	16	6	11	+21	54	
10 Horsham YMCA	37	13	13	11	+7	52	
11 Metropolitan Police	34	14	9	11	+12	51	
12 Corinthian-Casuals	36	15	3	18	-11	48	
13 Whyteleafe	36	14	5	17	+5	47	
14 Ramsgate	35	12	11	12	-3	47	
15 Merstham	36	12	9	15	-12	45	
16 Chatham Town	36	13	3	20	-18	42	
17 Dulwich Hamlet	35	10	10	15	-12	40	
18 Chipstead	35	8	8	19	-19	32	
19 Ashford Town	33	7	10	16	-29	31	
20 Whitstable Town	34	9	2	23	-44	29	
21 Eastbourne Town	36	6	10	20	-33	28	
22 Walton Casuals	37	6	8	23	-27	26	

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Premier: Margate v Bognor Regis Town; Ryman One South: Eastbourne Town v Ramsuate

Magnificent seven clinches title glory for Ville men's 1st

HOCKEY

Old Bordenians 2nds 2 Cliftonville 1sts 7

CLIFTONVILLE'S season to remember got even better on Saturday as the men's first team became league champions in style.

The Kent Premier Division Two title is the latest accolade in a memorable campaign for the club, with the top two women's sides winning their leagues, plus the men's seconds sealing promotion.

Despite playing a side in the relegation zone, Ville did not have it all their own way. Old Bordenians took the lead on ten minutes and although Alex Cowell quickly equalised, the home side re-established their advantage

Adam Sidders' penalty flick calmed the visitors' nerves by sending the sides into the break level at 2-2.

The second half did not start well, with skipper Dave Potter taken to hospital for stitches after receiving a cut to the eyelid. The loss galvanised Ville and they went on to win the game comfortably. Cowell scored twice more to complete his hat-trick, while James Perks and Sidders also struck late on. Coach Seth Simmons completed the rout with the last touch of the game.

The men's seconds beat BBHC thirds 5-3 to

stay top of Kent Open League Premier B. Rob Macer scored either side of a strike from the visitors to give Ville a 2-1 lead at halftime, but BBHC hit back in the second half to take a 3-2 lead with ten minutes remaining.

Needing victory to stay top going into the



HAT-TRICK Alex Cowell helped Ville win the league title

final round of games, Ville found another gear. Mike Knell scored twice, sandwiching an effort from Macer which completed his

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